The チェリープロジェクト 3

武内直子

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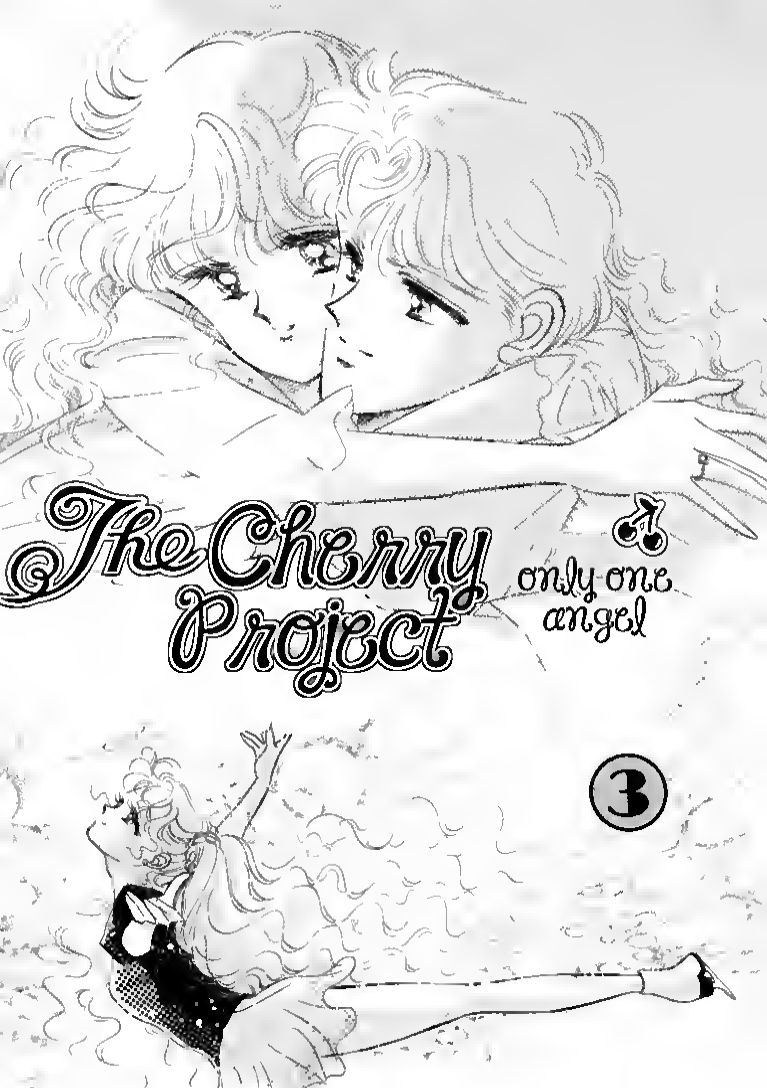
Kodansya Comics



The Cherry Project

only one angel

3

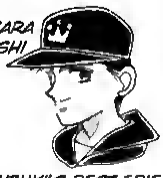
- WAITING AT THE DREAM PARK 143
- EPILOGUE OF MARIA 183

CAST SO FAR

NISHIMURA YUNI

CHIERI'S BEST FRIEND. DIRECTOR OF PROJECT COSTUME DESIGN.

FUJIWARA HIROSHI



TSUZUKI'S BEST FRIEND. DIRECTOR OF PROJECT MUSIC COORDINATION.

AKIYAMA KOUICHI

TSUZUKI'S BEST FRIEND. DIRECTOR OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT.

COACH MORI

CHIERI'S COACH, ORIGINALLY USED TO COACH TSUZUKI.

MISS HARUNA SAKURADA

CHIERI'S HOMEROOM TEACHER. VERY KIND.

CHIERI'S DAD

THE FORMER ALL JAPAN CHAMPION. WAS AN OLYMPIC ATHELETE.

CHERRY PROJECT REPORT

THE CHERRY PROJECT BEGAN WHEN ASUKA CHIERI DECIDED TO BECOME AN AMAZING FIGURE SKATER FOR THE SAKE OF PUTTING ON A SHOW FOR HER SCHOOL FESTIVAL. THE PROJECT MEMBERS ARE: TSUZUKI, KOUICHI, HIROSHI, AND YUNI. THE THREE BOYS IN THE GROUP ARE ON A MISSION. THEY ARE ON A QUEST TO FIND A PAIR SKATING PARTNER FOR TSUZUKI, SO THAT HE CAN BECOME WORLD CHAMPION.

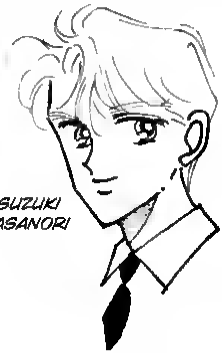
ALTHOUGH CHIERI WAS A HUGE SUCCESS AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL, HER MANY FAULTS ARE BEGINNING TO SHOW. AS HER SELF CONFIDENCE WANES, SO DOES HER PERFORMANCES. AFTER MAKING A PROMISE TO HIS FATHER TO QUIT SKATING, TSUZUKI LEAVES THE PROJECT UP IN THE AIR, AND RETURNS TO HIS ORIGINAL SCHOOL.

CHIERI, DEPRESSED, CONTINUES TO SKATE, BELIEVING THAT SOMEDAY SHE'LL MEET TSUZUKI AGAIN. SHE REUNITES WITH TSUZUKI AT THE TOKYO BLOCK TOURNAMENT...BUT HE'S BECOME THE PRINCESS'S COACH. AFTER THE TOURNMANENT, CHIERI IS LEFT CRYING AT THE RINK.

THE

ASUKA CHIERI

NICKNAMED CHERRY. THE PROTAGONIST OF THIS STORY. SHE IS A 7TH GRADE GIRL WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE.

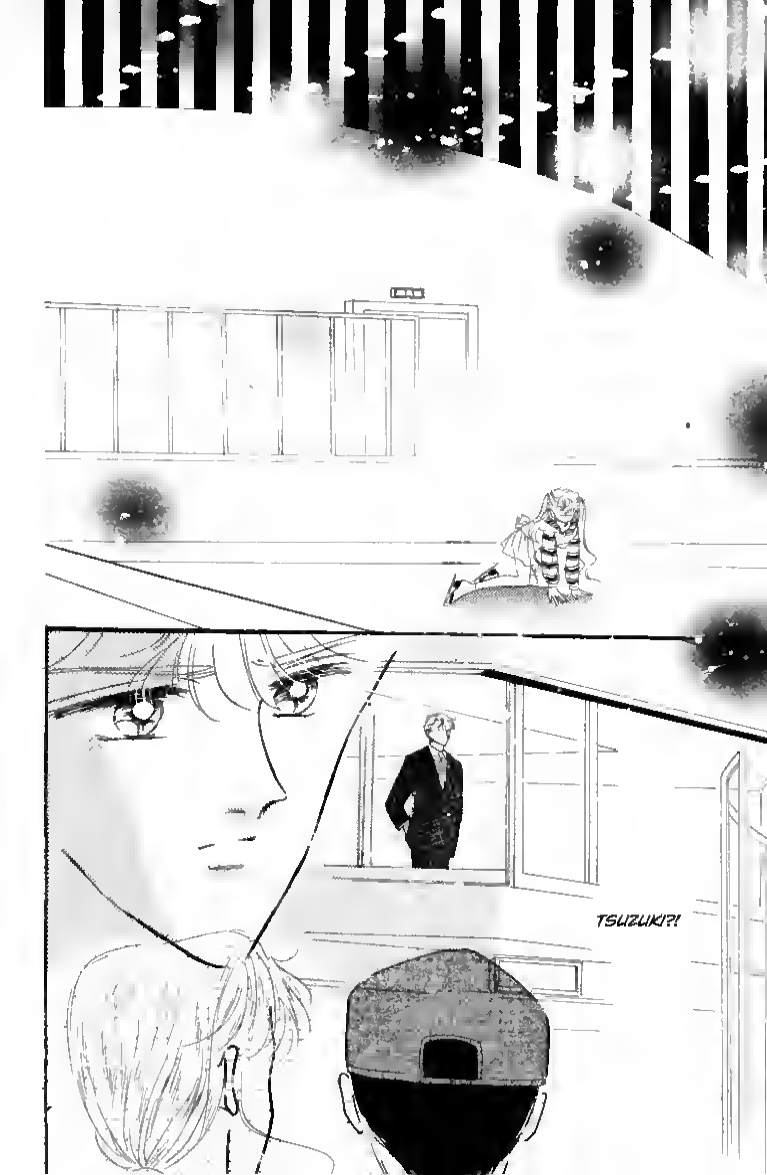


TSUZUKI MASANORI

A GENIUS FIGURE SKATER. LOOKING FOR A PAIR SKATING PARTNER. VERY COOL.

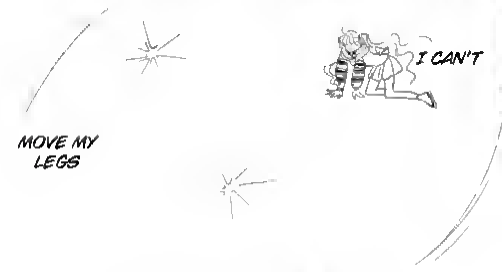
THE PRINCESS

HER REAL NAME IS AKIYAMA CANTY. SHE IS THE PRINCESS OF THE SKATING CLUB. SHE IS BEAUTIFUL BUT ICY COLD.

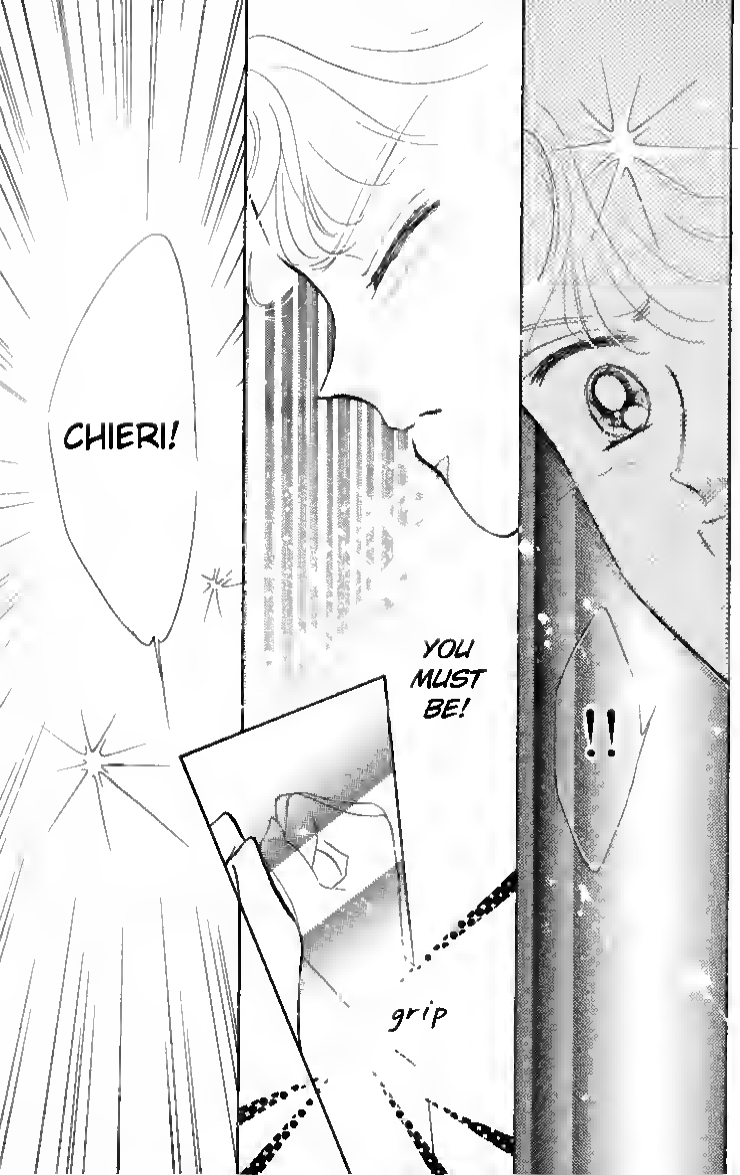

TSUZUKI?!

pant
pant
UGH
TSUZUKI

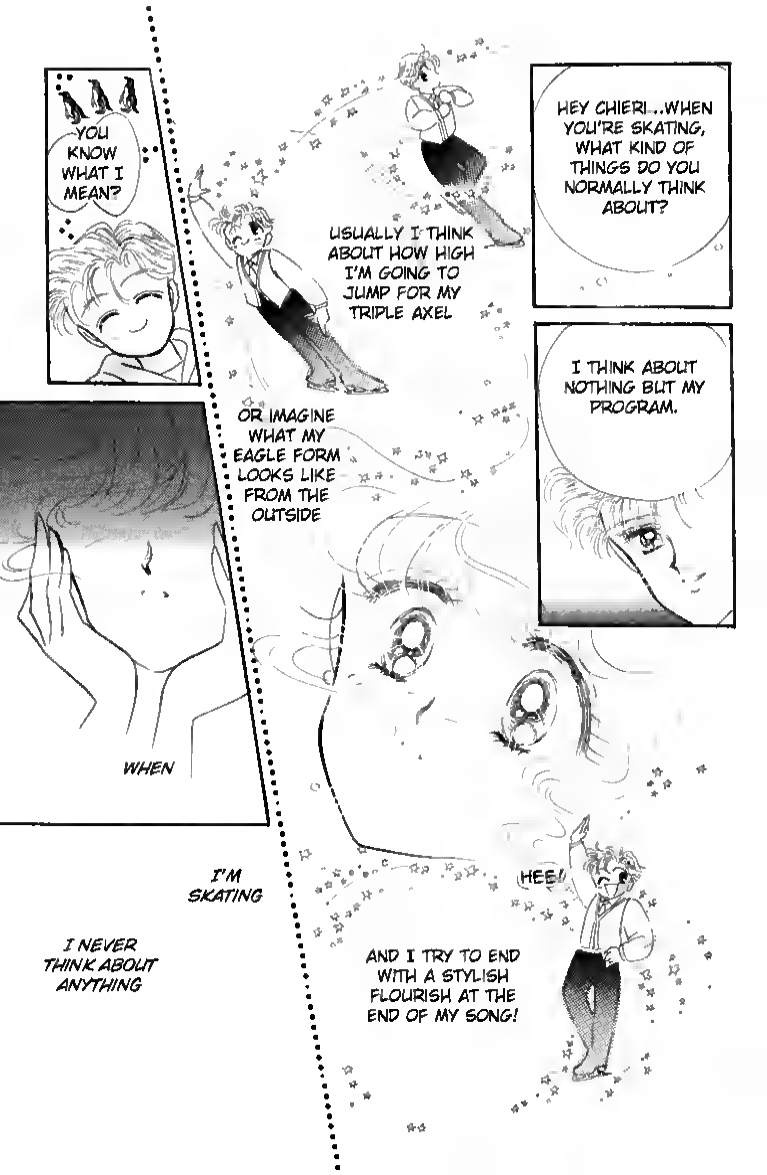
I HAVE TO GET RINK SIDE. COME ON CHIERI, STAND UP. YOU CAN DO THIS, JUST START FROM THE BEGINNING
badum
YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THIS


I CAN'T
KEEP TRYING HARD
MOVE MY LEGS

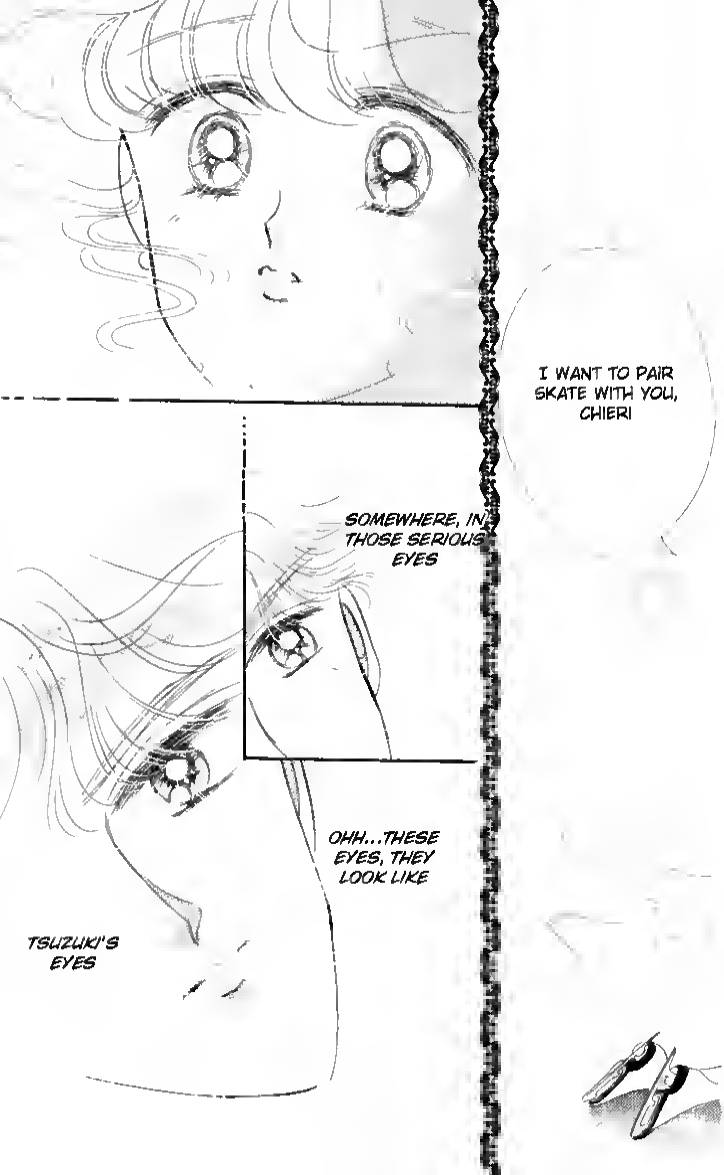
THE RAILING IS SO FAR AWAY
I'M ALL ALONE
thud
IN THIS HUGE RINK
wobble


CHIERI!
YOU MUST BE!
!!
grip

YOU CAN'T SKATE ANYMORE
I HEARD
CHIERI
UGH
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN OUT THERE?! IT'S PITCH DARK OUTSIDE NOW, DIDN'T YOU NOTICE?!
YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT SKATING A LITTLE MORE CASUALLY, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE SO SERIOUS

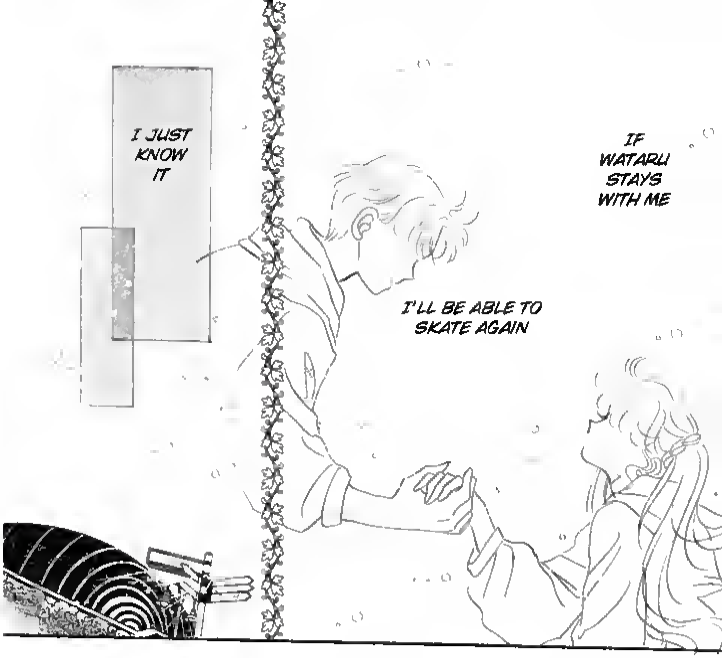

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
HEY CHIERI...WHEN YOU'RE SKATING, WHAT KIND OF THINGS DO YOU NORMALLY THINK ABOUT?
USUALLY I THINK ABOUT HOW HIGH I'M GOING TO JUMP FOR MY TRIPLE AXEL
I THINK ABOUT NOTHING BUT MY PROGRAM.
OR IMAGINE WHAT MY EAGLE FORM LOOKS LIKE FROM THE OUTSIDE
WHEN I'M SKATING I NEVER THINK ABOUT ANYTHING
HEE!
AND I TRY TO END WITH A STYLISH FLOURISH AT THE END OF MY SONG!

NOTHING
I'LL TAKE AWAY HALF OF YOUR PAIN
I'LL SKATE WITH YOU, CHIER!


I WANT TO PAIR SKATE WITH YOU, CHIERI
SOMEWHERE, IN THOSE SERIOUS EYES
OHH...THESE EYES, THEY LOOK LIKE
TSUZUKI'S EYES

LIKE TSUZUKI
SO LONG AS SOMEONE SKATES WITH YOU, IT'S NOT SO BAD
DON'T YOU THINK SKATING WITH SOMEONE ELSE
IS A WONDERFUL THING?
hug
SINGLES
IT'S WAY BETTER THAN SKATING
I DO
YEAH
badum

MAYBE
I CAN SKATE
WITH THIS GUY
IT IS MORE WONDER FUL

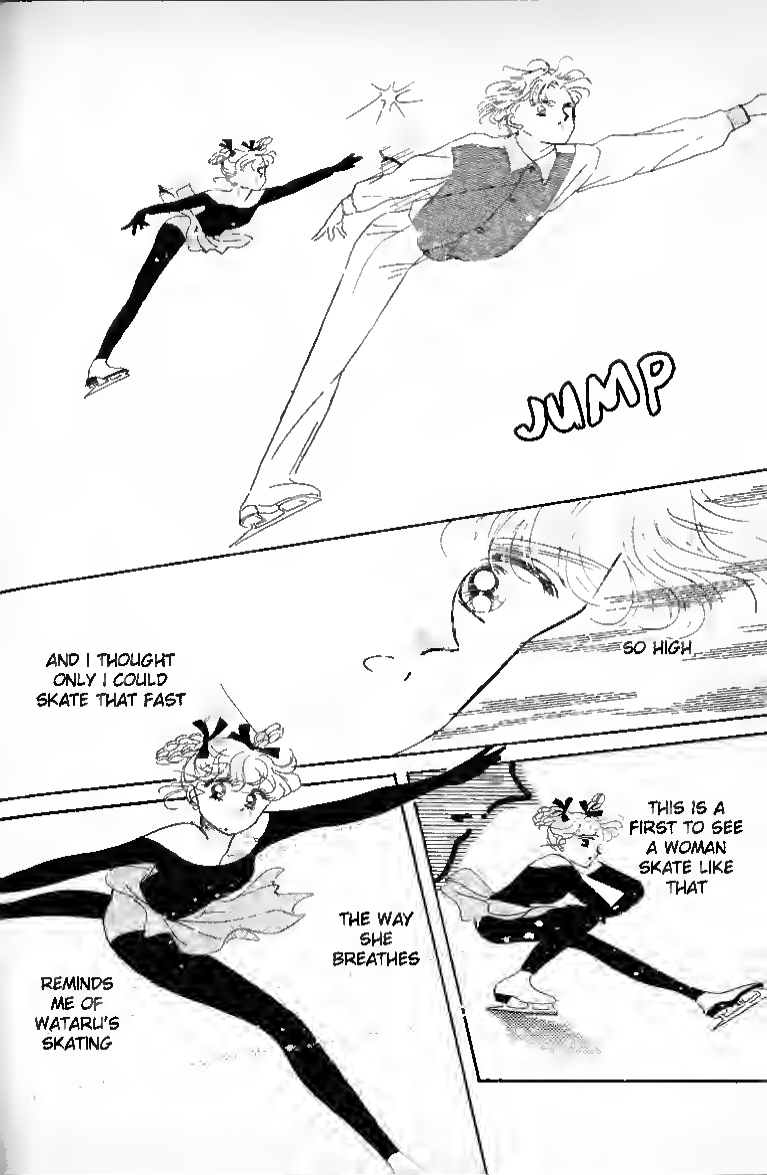


HI EVERYONE. <3
ARE YOU LIVING WELL?
I'VE BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT WORK.
I'M SAD I HAVEN'T HAD TIME FOR FUN. SOB SOB
THE CHERRY PROJECT VOLUME 3 IS FINALLY OUT! I'M SO HAPPY.
THIS IS THE FINAL VOLUME. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOUR FAN MAILS AND PICTURES.
I'M ONLY HERE THANKS TO YOU GUYS. <3
I FEEL SO GRATEFUL - THANK YOU.
WRITE ME A LETTER WITH YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS STORY.
I LOVE TO GET ILLUSTRATIONS AND PORTAITS TOO
WITH ALL MY LOVE, NAOKO

IT'S ALL RIGHT, DON'T BE SCARED
LET'S REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME YOU WENT ON THE RINK
OKAY, CLOSE YOUR EYES AGAIN
TSUZUKI MASANORI!
DAD, I'M GOING TO LEARN HOW TO SKATE! SO I CAN BE LIKE THAT GUY!
CHIERI?

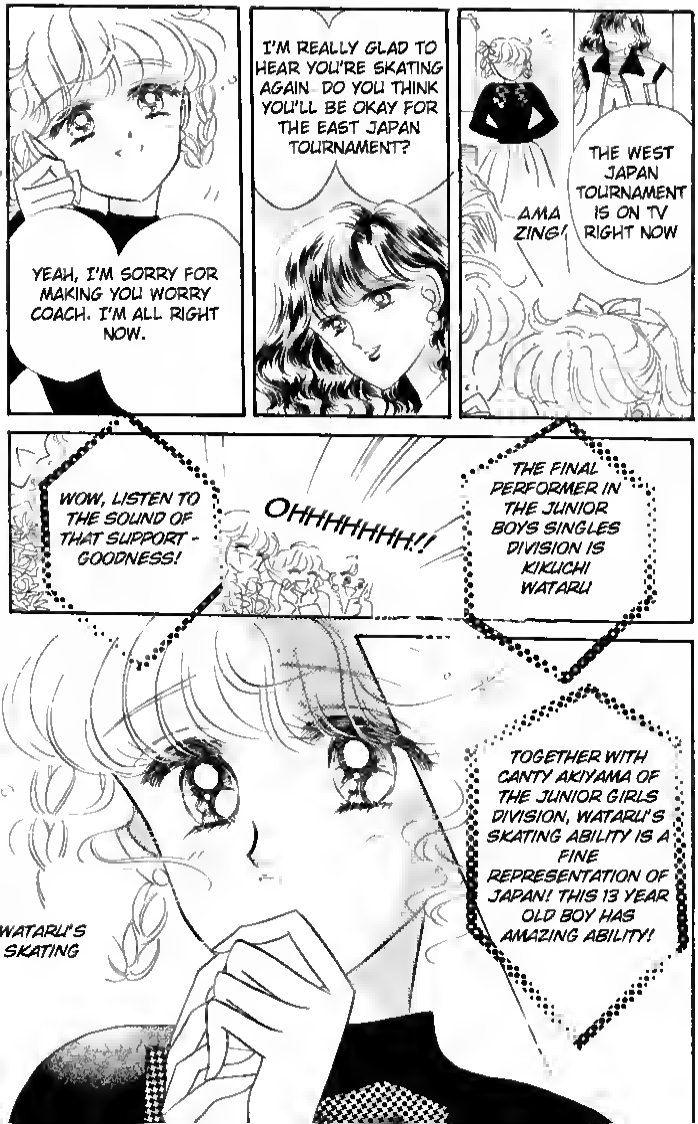
IT'S FINE
I'VE GOTTA FORGET ABOUT IT
I HAD A REALLY SENTIMENTAL MEMORY...
I KNOW YOU CAN SKATE, CHIERI
OKAY? DO YOUR BEST
BECAUSE I'M GOING TO DO IT WITH YOU

I'LL STAY BY YOUR SIDE
KOUICHI, HIROSHI!
WORKING HARD, I SEE
I'M REALLY HAPPY TO SEE THAT SHE'S SKATING AGAIN
IT'S JUST TOO BAD IT'S WITH THAT GUY
smile
YOU ARE ALWAYS COVERED IN SCRATCHES, CHIERI!


JUMP
AND I THOUGHT ONLY I COULD SKATE THAT FAST
SO HIGH
REMINDS ME OF WATARU'S SKATING
THE WAY SHE BREATHES
THIS IS A FIRST TO SEE A WOMAN SKATE LIKE THAT

badum
WITH TSUZUKI
UM, ONLY A LITTLE
OH
CHIERI, YOU CAN SKATE SO EASILY! HAVE YOU PAIR SKATED BEFORE?
swish
pant
pant
pant
HMMM
IT WAS JUST ONE TIME, AND JUST A COINCIDENCE THOUGH. NOT ANYTHING MUCH AT ALL
I'M GOING TO FORGET ABOUT TSUZUKI
I HOPE WE CAN START PERFORMING TOGETHER NEXT YEAR
BUT UNTIL THEN, JUST GO AHEAD AND KEEP WORKING TOWARDS YOUR GOALS IN THE SINGLES DIVISION YOU CAN DO IT!
YEAH
I'VE GOT TO DO MY BEST

YUNI
SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT ABOUT ALL THIS
I HAVE TO KEEP AT THIS! FOR MYSELF, AND FOR WATARU TOO
NEXT WEEK IS THE EAST JAPAN TOURNAMENT
YEAH, HE'S DOING THE WEST JAPAN TOURNAMENT THIS WEEKEND
KIKUCHI WATARU WENT BACK TO KOBE?
SOMETHING'S WRONG
LOOK AT HIM MOVE, HE'S CUTE!
THAT'S HIM
office
KYA
KYA

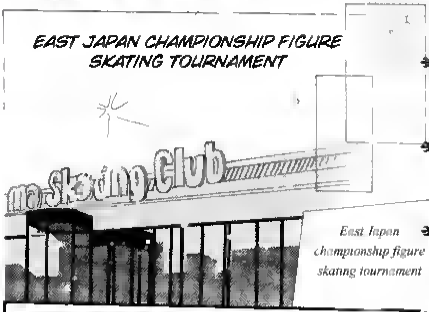

YEAH, I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY COACH. I'M ALL RIGHT NOW.
I'M REALLY GLAD TO HEAR YOU'RE SKATING AGAIN. DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE OKAY FOR THE EAST JAPAN TOURNAMENT?
AMA ZING!
THE WEST JAPAN TOURNAMENT IS ON TV RIGHT NOW
WOW, LISTEN TO THE SOUND OF THAT SUPPORT - GOODNESS!
OHHHHHHH!!
THE FINAL PERFORMER IN THE JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES DIVISION IS KIKUCHI WATARU
TOGETHER WITH CANTY AKIYAMA OF THE JUNIOR GIRLS DIVISION, WATARU'S SKATING ABILITY IS A FINE REPRESENTATION OF JAPAN! THIS 13 YEAR OLD BOY HAS AMAZING ABILITY!
WATARU'S SKATING

IS THAT WHY I CAN SKATE SO EASILY TOO?

JUST LIKE TSUIZUKI

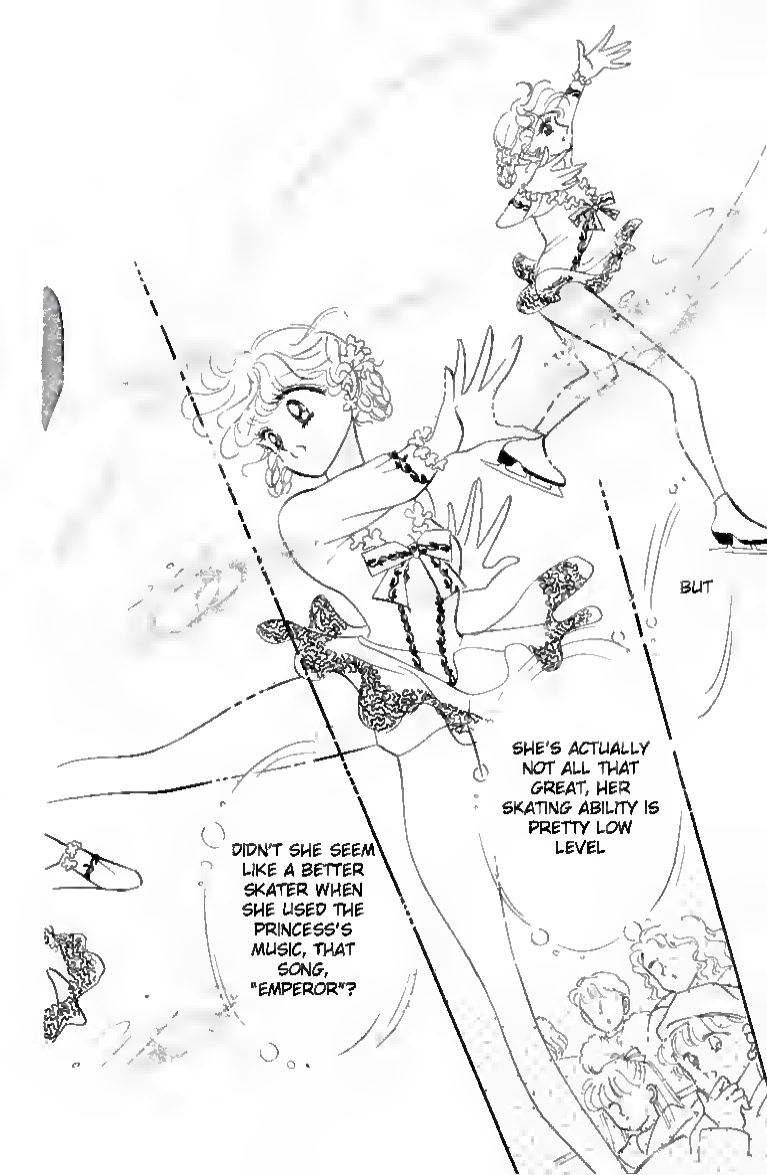
IT LOOKS A LOT LIKE TSUIZUKI'S STYLE FROM A LONG TIME AGO

EAST JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIP FIGURE SKATING TOURNAMENT



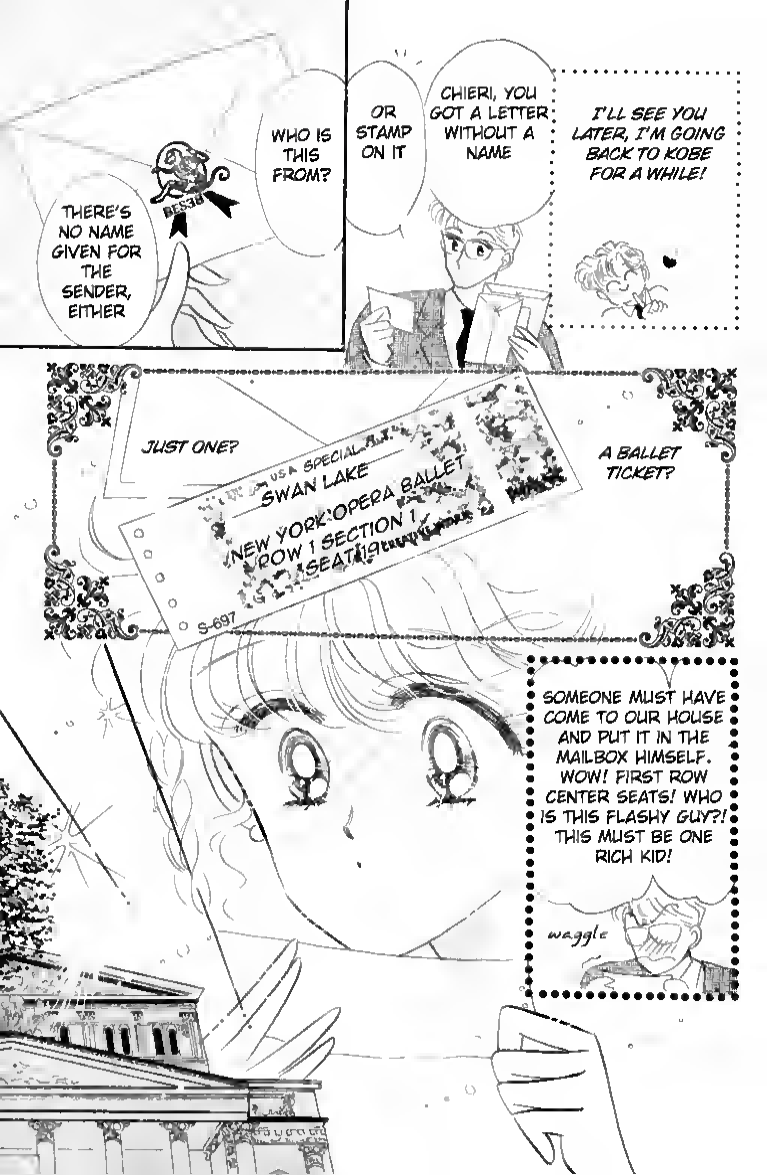
DAY TWO. GIRLS FREE SKATE

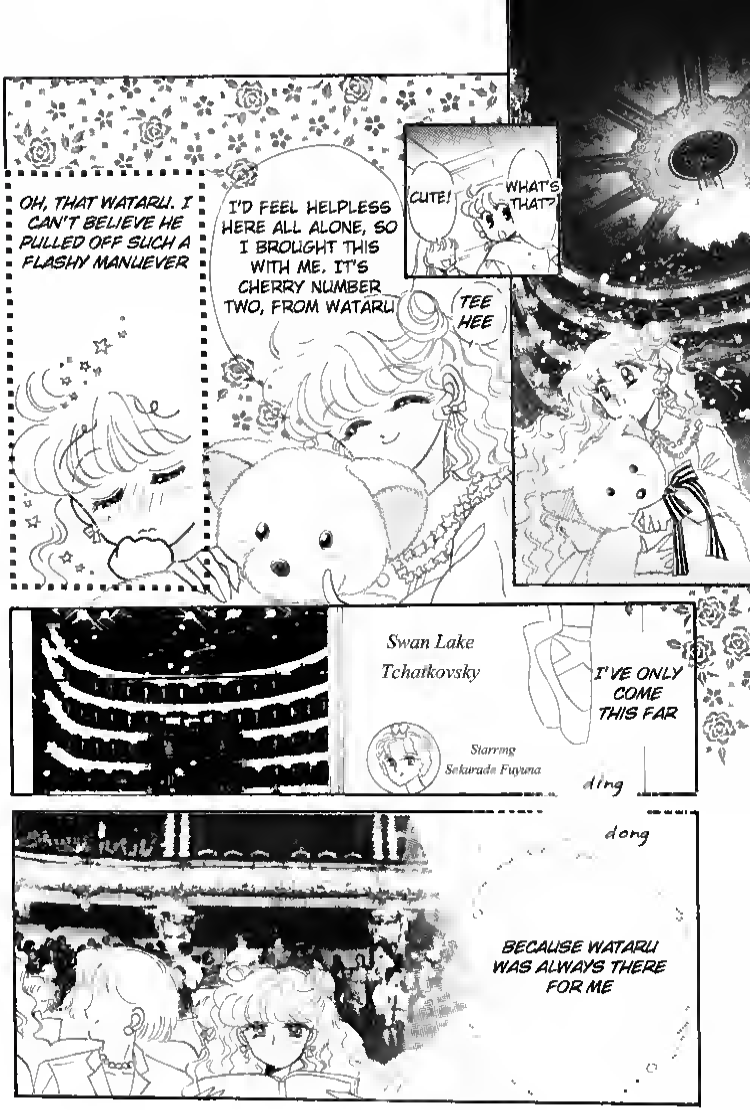
I CAN SKATE. I'M NOT SCARED. I'M ALL RIGHT.
THE WAITING ROOM
SO SHE TOOK FIFTH PLACE IN YESTERDAY'S ORIGINAL PROGRAM EVENT?
SHE HAS TO GET AT LEAST 12TH PLACE TODAY TO GET INTO THE ALL JAPAN TOURNAMENT, RIGHT?
girls waiting room
I'M GOING TO SKATE WITH EVERYTHING I HAVE
NUMBER 18, MISS ASUKA CHIERI
woo
wow!
OH! LOOK! IT'S THE GIRL WHO SKATED TO THE SAME MUSIC AS THE PRINCESS LAST TIME! LOOKS LIKE SHE CHANGED HER MUSIC.
HER MUSIC IS FROM WEST SIDE STORY
chatter chatter

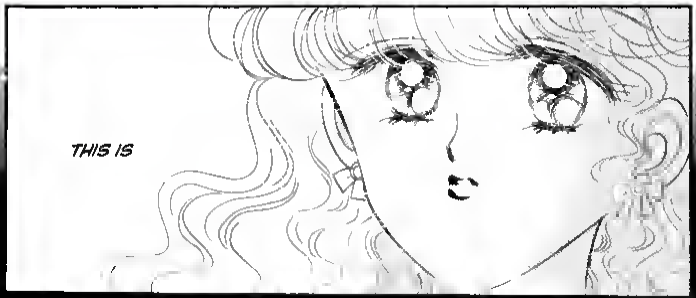

BUT
SHE'S ACTUALLY NOT ALL THAT GREAT, HER SKATING ABILITY IS PRETTY LOW LEVEL
DIDN'T SHE SEEM LIKE A BETTER SKATER WHEN SHE USED THE PRINCESS'S MUSIC, THAT SONG, "EMPEROR"?

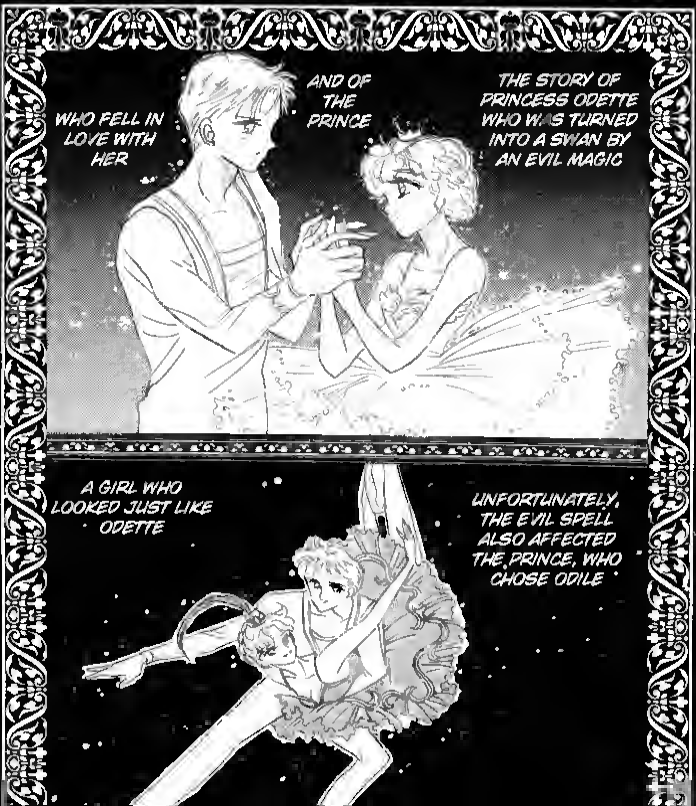
BUT
I HEAR YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CONVINCED HER SHE COULD SKATE AGAIN, IS THAT RIGHT?
SHE SEEMS APPEALING. BUT EVEN TSUZUKI GAVE UP ON HER. I WONDER... CAN YOU FIX THIS GIRL'S FATAL FLAW?
woo
WE'LL SEE HOW THE MATCH TURNS OUT
smirk
clap
WOO
I WONDER IF I DID OKAY
clap
THERE'S NOT MUCH FEEDBACK
pant
pant

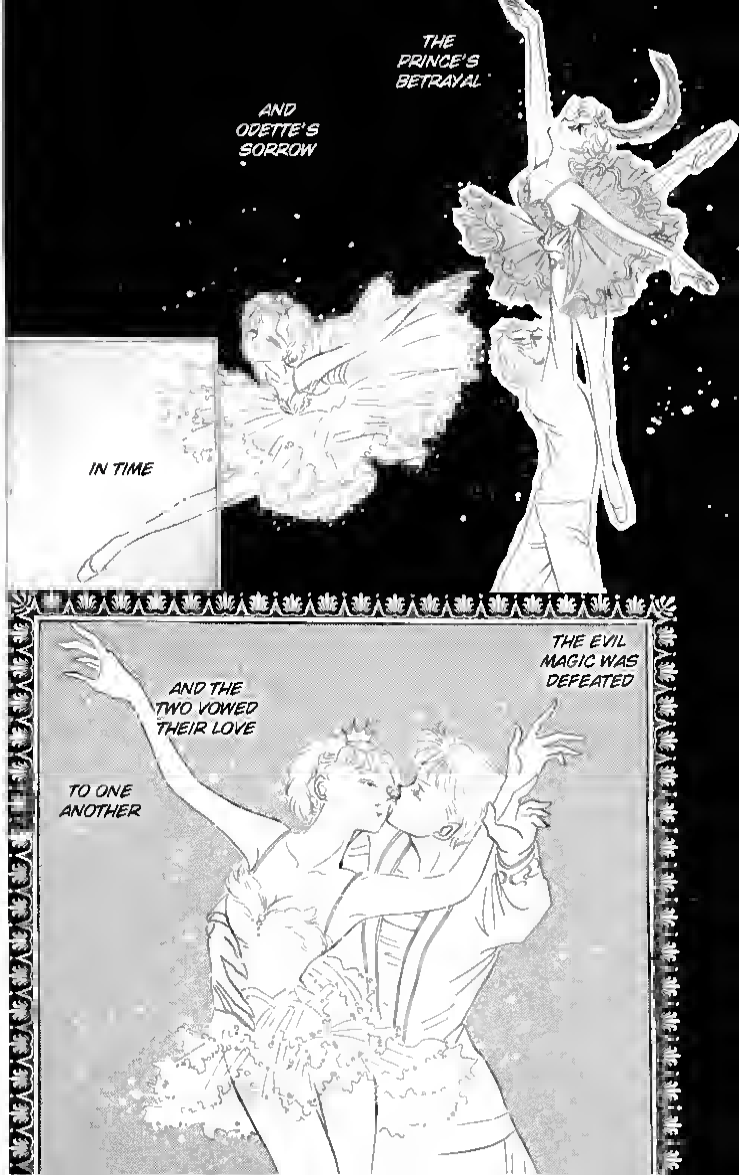
I KNEW IT. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR PRESENTATION PROBLEM
PRESENTATION
pant
WOO!
HER ARTISTIC SCORES ARE REALLY LOW!
WHAT'S HER OVERALL RANK?
SHE BARELY MADE IT. 12TH PLACE.
SO SHE CAN GO TO ALL JAPAN! WHEW!
GOOD JOB, GOOD JOB!
IF YOU CAN KEEP GOING ON LIKE THIS, YOU'LL DO JUST FINE!
YOU'RE STILL AT HOME AT THIS TIME IN THE MORNING? THAT'S UNUSUAL!
I DON'T HAVE PRACTICE TODAY. THE TOURNAMENT WAS YESTERDAY AND WATARU WENT BACK TO KOBE.


THERE'S NO NAME GIVEN FOR THE SENDER, EITHER
WHO IS THIS FROM?
OR STAMP ON IT
CHIERI, YOU GOT A LETTER WITHOUT A NAME
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, I'M GOING BACK TO KOBE FOR A WHILE!
JUST ONE?
U.S.A. SPECIAL A.I.
SWAN LAKE
NEW YORK OPERA BALLET
ROW 1 SECTION 1
SEAT 19
S-697
A BALLET TICKET?
SOMEONE MUST HAVE COME TO OUR HOUSE AND PUT IT IN THE MAILBOX HIMSELF. WOW! FIRST ROW CENTER SEATS! WHO IS THIS FLASHY GUY?! THIS MUST BE ONE RICH KID!
waggle

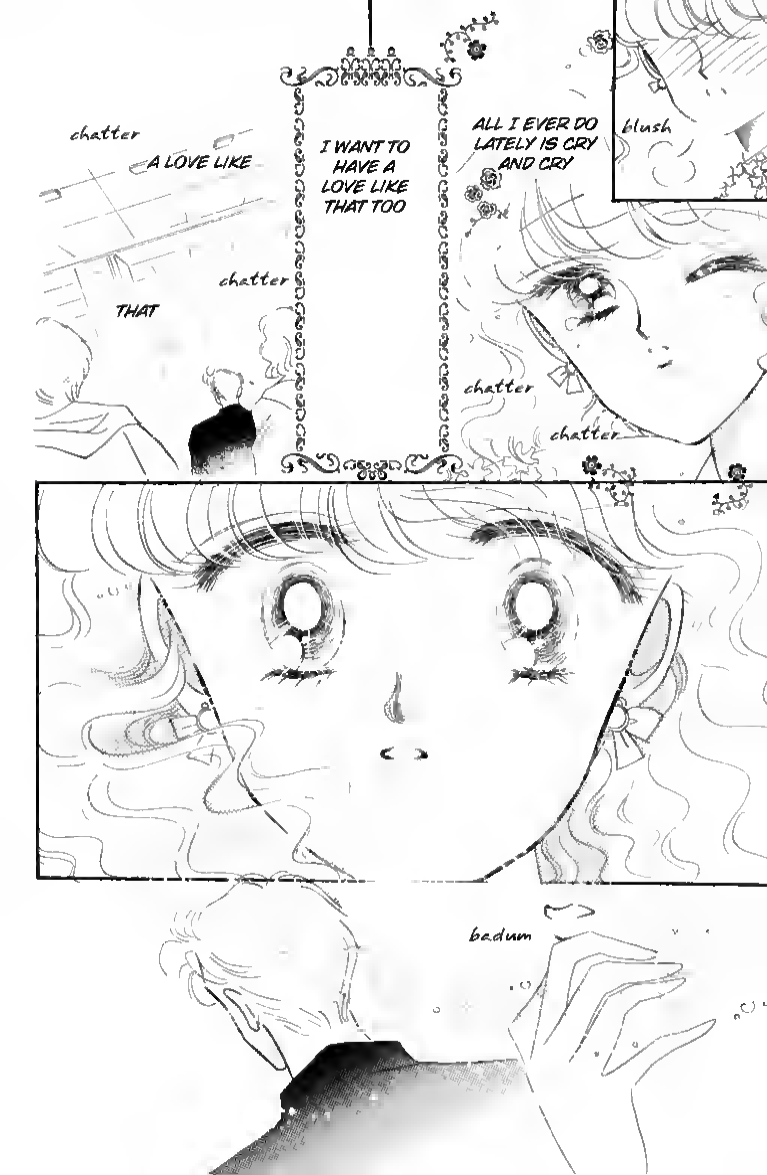

OH, THAT WATARU. I CAN'T BELIEVE HE PULLED OFF SUCH A FLASHY MANUEVER
I'D FEEL HELPLESS HERE ALL ALONE, SO I BROUGHT THIS WITH ME. IT'S CHERRY NUMBER TWO, FROM WATARU!
TEE HEE
CUTE!
WHAT'S THAT?
Swan Lake
Tchaikovsky
Starring
Sakurada Fuyuna
I'VE ONLY COME THIS FAR
ding
dong
BECAUSE WATARU WAS ALWAYS THERE FOR ME


THIS IS


WHO FELL IN LOVE WITH HER
AND OF THE PRINCE
THE STORY OF PRINCESS ODETTE WHO WAS TURNED INTO A SWAN BY AN EVIL MAGIC
A GIRL WHO LOOKED JUST LIKE ODETTE
UNFORTUNATELY, THE EVIL SPELL ALSO AFFECTED THE PRINCE, WHO CHOSE ODILE


THE PRINCE'S BETRAYAL
AND ODETTE'S SORROW
IN TIME
THE EVIL MAGIC WAS DEFEATED
AND THE TWO VOWED THEIR LOVE
TO ONE ANOTHER

chatter
chatter
chatter


chatter
A LOVE LIKE
THAT
chatter
I WANT TO HAVE A LOVE LIKE THAT TOO
ALL I EVER DO LATELY IS CRY AND CRY
blush
chatter
chatter
badum

WHY
IS IT, EVEN WITH THIS MANY PEOPLE HERE
I CAN INSTANTLY
FIND TSUZUKI?

WHY...
WHY AM I STILL SEEING HIM?
badum
I'M TRYING TO GET THROUGH THIS THE BEST THAT I CAN
whoosh

I WONDER IF
IT'S DESTINY
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
MY HEART HURTS SO MUCH
I WANT TO SKATE WITH HIM
chatter
chatter

MORNING. YOU'RE HERE EARLY
ARE YOU STILL SKATING?
swoosh
peep
chirp
chirp
AND WHEN I FEEL LIKE THIS, I JUST WANT TO SKATE MORE AND MORE
I COULDN'T SKATE AS WELL AS I THOUGHT I COULD
swish
jump
DO YOU WANT TO TRY SKATING TOGETHER?

OUR TEMPO ISN'T IN SYNC?
swish
thud
swish
SORRY - ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S STRANGE...WE MATCHED PERFECTLY BEFORE, BUT NOW WE DON'T. WHY NOT?
OUR TIMING ISN'T RIGHT

RIGHT NOW I'M WATCHING A VIDEO FROM NHK". THE COUPLE I'M WATCHING PAIR SKATE REMIND ME A LOT OF TSUIZUKI AND CHIERI. IT'S REALLY HEART MOVING. WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, I REALLY WANTED TO DO PAIR SKATING. (NOW I THINK I LIKE SINGLES AND ICE DANCING - SOUNDS BETTER, RIGHT?) THERE ARE A LOT OF INTERESTING COMICS ABOUT SKATING! (I'M SERIOUS. THERE'S A LOT! DON'T LAUGH - THERE'S TONS OF THEM I WANT TO READ!)

WHEN I WAS WRITING CHIERI, I THOUGHT BACK TO MY TIME DOING SKATING. (DON'T LAUGH AT ME - IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE THEN!)

SINCE I WAS ENTRANCED BY FIGURE SKATING BACK THEN, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GREAT IDEA TO WRITE A MANGA ABOUT WHAT I LOVED AND HAVE IT PUBLISHED IN NAKAYOSHI! (I THINK THAT NOW TOO)

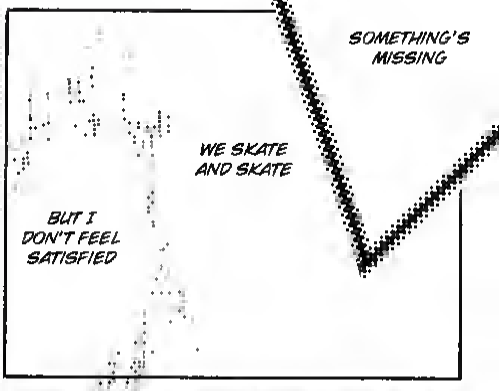
I HAD THIS FRIEND NAMED YAYOI WHO WAS JUST AS POWERFUL A GIRL AS CHIERI. I OWE HER THANKS FOR THIS STORY. (ONE TIME SHE AND I WENT OUT TO EAT FUGU* TOGETHER!)

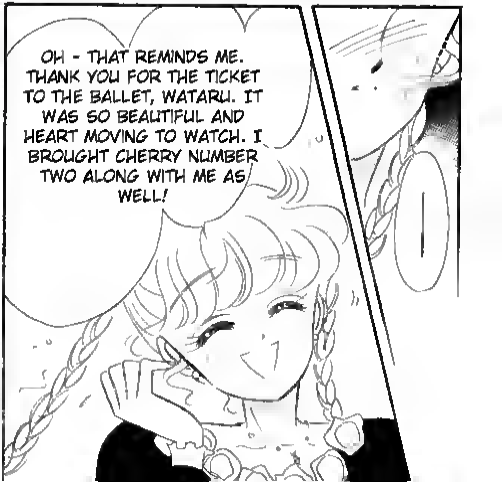
I HAD TO DO A LOT OF RESEARCH FOR THIS STORY, AND SO I SPENT A LOT OF TIME AT THE SHINAGAWA PRINCE HOTEL DOING IT. MAYBE YOU GUYS CAN FIND OUR AUTOGRAPHS DURING THE JAPAN SKATE TOURNAMENTS THERE.

ANYWAY, THANK YOU FOR READING ALL OF THIS EVERYONE! WITH ALL MY HEART - I LOVE YOU!!

NOTES: NHK IS A JAPANESE PUBLIC CABLE / NEWS NETWORK.

FUGU IS PUFFERFISH, WHICH IS VERY POISONOUS, AND CONSIDERED A REALLY DANGEROUS FOOD TO EAT. BUT IT IS POPULAR AS A DELICACY IN JAPAN.

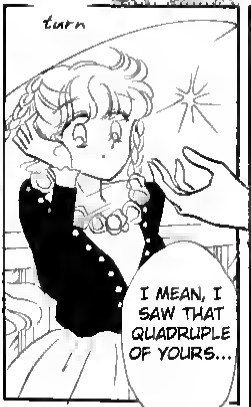



OH - THAT REMINDS ME. THANK YOU FOR THE TICKET TO THE BALLET, WATARU. IT WAS SO BEAUTIFUL AND HEART MOVING TO WATCH. I BROUGHT CHERRY NUMBER TWO ALONG WITH ME AS WELL!

BALLET? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE BALLET
DID SOMEONE GIVE YOU TICKETS OR SOMETHING?
SHE WAS TELLING ME THAT IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU IF YOU LEARNED EXPRESSION FROM BALLET PERFORMANCE BECAUSE THE MOVEMENTS THEY MAKE ARE FLUID, AND OURS SHOULD BE TOO.
SHE SAID IT WOULD HELP YOU IMPROVE YOUR POWER OF EXPRESSION
MAYBE COACH MORI SENT THEM?
YEAH, I GOT THEM IN THE MAIL.
SO, IT WASN'T WATARU WHO SENT THEM AFTER ALL?

AND NOW FOR A QUICK COMMERCIAL!
MY NEXT PROJECT AFTER THE CHERRY PROJECT VOLUME 3 (WHICH YOU SHOULD BUY!) IS
PRETTY SOLDIER SAILOR MOON
LUCKY!!
THIS IS THE SERIES HEROINE, USAGI. ISN'T SHE PRECIOUS?
IT'S AMAZING TOO BECAUSE THIS SERIES IS GOING TO BE MADE INTO AN ANIME! I HOPE YOU'LL WATCH IT!
(IT'S COMING OUT SPRING 1992) IT'LL BE AIRING ON SATURDAYS ON TV ASAHI
USAGI TRANSFORMS INTO SAILOR MOON TO FIGHT BAD GUYS!
WOO!
LET'S DO THIS! THAT'S MY WISH!
I WONDER WHO USAGI IS MODELLED AFTER...
WHOOPS!
TEE HEE

ANYWAY, AS LONG AS YOU'RE GOING TO BE MY PAIR SKATING PARTNER, I DON'T SEE A REASON WHY YOU SHOULD LEARN THAT AT ALL
BUT POWER OF EXPRESSION... THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN LEARN ALL THAT QUICKLY


turn
I MEAN, I SAW THAT QUADRUPLE OF YOURS...

I'D RATHER TRAIN YOU TO PERFORM BOYS LEVEL SPEED SKATING AND JUMPS. I KNOW IT'LL ALL WORK OUT FOR YOU CHIERI!

I DON'T THINK HE'D DO SOMETHING LIKE ONLY SENDING ME ONE TICKET
IF IT WAS FROM HIM, HE WOULD HAVE SAID "LET'S GO WATCH IT TOGETHER"

WAS IT TSUZUKI?

gasp
WHAT THE HELL
NO! TSUZUKI!
WHY IS IT ALWAYS ABOUT "TSUZUKI" WITH YOU!

I'M SORRY
sob
THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT PERSON
badum
dash
HE'S NICE
badum
AND HE'S ALWAYS BEEN BY MY SIDE BUT

EVEN THOUGH HIS SKATING IS A LOT LIKE TSUZUKI'S
ISN'T TSUZUKI
WATARU
TSUZUKI
Rink 1
RIGHT
Rink 1
Rink 3
Rink 2
6 pm
Canty Akyama performance
I WANT TO WATCH TSUZUKI SKATE
NOW

badum
gasp
TSUZUKI..!
badum

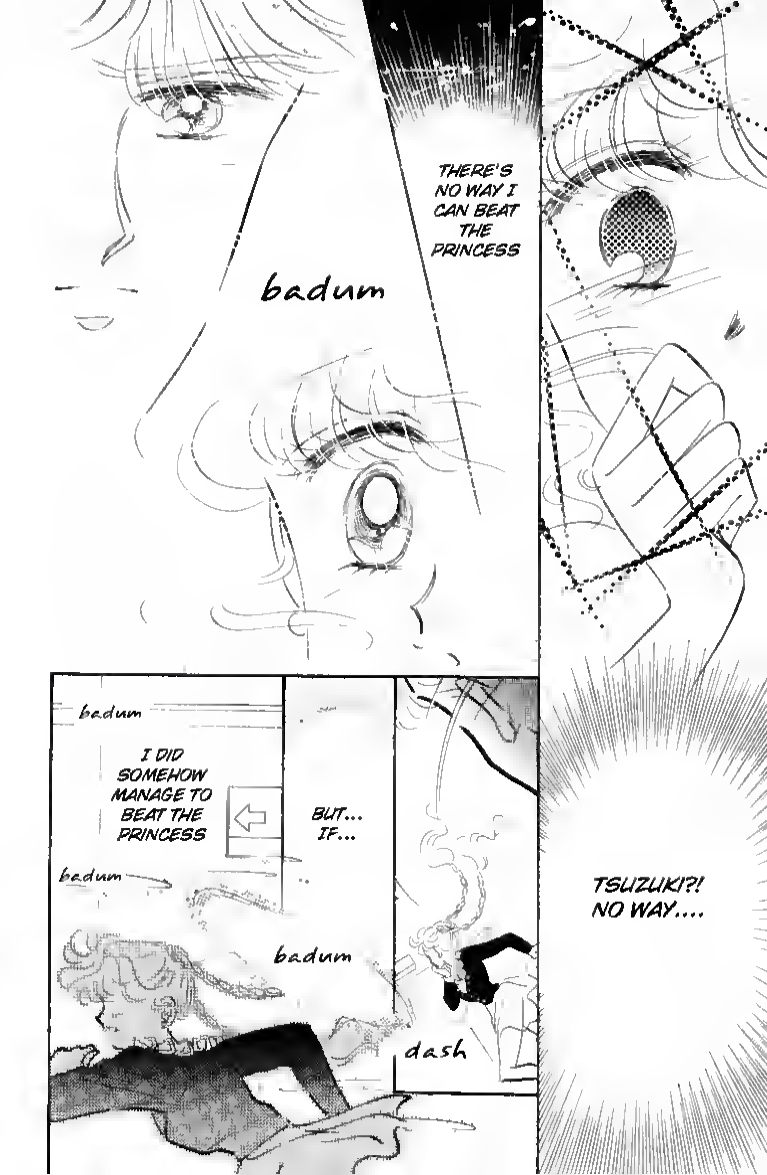
OH
I CAN SEE
TWO ANGEL WINGS

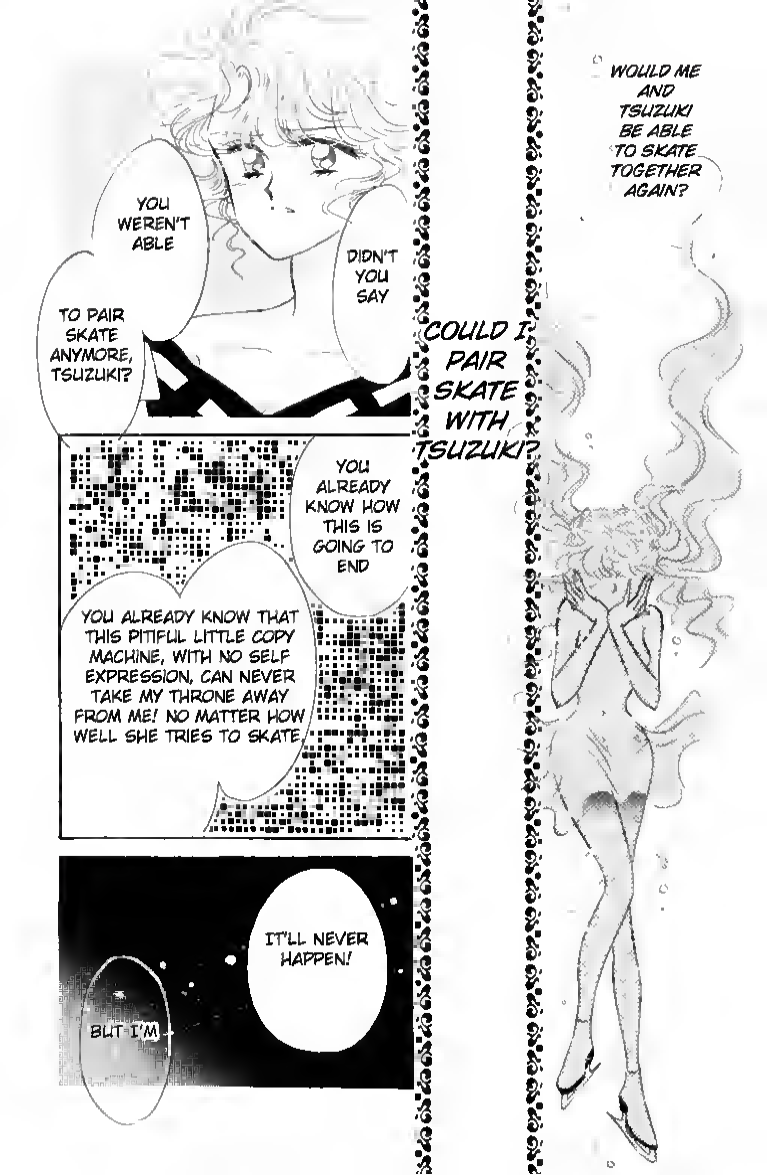
TWO SETS OF ANGEL WINGS....
plip
TSUZUKI
I
plip
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SAY TO HIM, CHIERI? TSUZUKI ISN'T MY COACH, OR CLASSMATE, OR ANYTHING TO ME ANYMORE

HE'S PAIR SKATING WITH THE PRINCESS NOW...
WITH TSUZUKI
I - I WANT TO...
slam
NOW GET OUT! LEAVE RIGHT NOW!
TSUZUKI DOESN'T PAIR SKATE ANYMORE!
BUT THEN, WHY ARE THESE TWO PERFORMING SO WELL TOGETHER?
TSUZUKI HAS GIVEN UP ON YOU - ALL YOU DO IS JUST GET IN THE WAY

HAS HE GIVEN UP ON HIS DREAM?
HE SHOULD STILL HAVE A WHOLE YEAR LEFT
WHY ISN'T TSUZUKI PAIR SKATING ANYMORE?! WHY?!
AFTER MIDDLE SCHOOL HE HAS TO GIVE UP SKATING
HAVE YOU REALLY GIVEN UP, TSUZUKI?
DO YOU WANT TSUZUKI TO BE YOUR COACH AGAIN?
YOU HAVE A LOT OF SELF CONFIDENCE IF YOU WANT TO BECOME CLOSER TO TSUZUKI, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES
YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME FIRST!
YOU KEEP SAYING YOU'RE GOING TO "CHALLENGE" ME, RIGHT?
WELL, LET'S SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL, AT THE ALL JAPAN TOURNAMENT!

WITH WHOEVER WINS THE TOURNAMENT
IS THAT FAIR?
I'LL PAIR SKATE
rustle

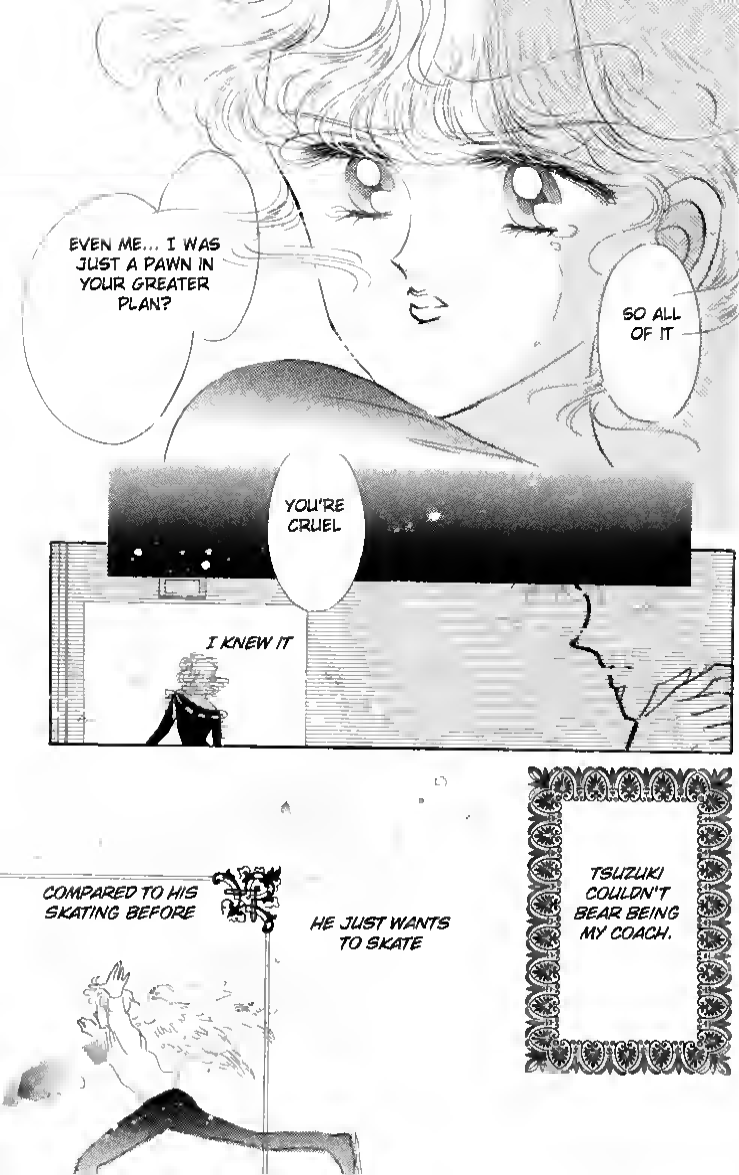

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN BEAT THE PRINCESS
badum
badum
I DID SOMEHOW MANAGE TO BEAT THE PRINCESS
BUT... IF...
badum
badum
dash
TSUZUKI?! NO WAY....


YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO PAIR SKATE ANYMORE, TSUZUKI?
DIDN'T YOU SAY
COULD I PAIR SKATE WITH TSUZUKI?
WOULD ME AND TSUZUKI BE ABLE TO SKATE TOGETHER AGAIN?
YOU ALREADY KNOW HOW THIS IS GOING TO END
YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT THIS PITIFUL LITTLE COPY MACHINE, WITH NO SELF EXPRESSION, CAN NEVER TAKE MY THRONE AWAY FROM ME! NO MATTER HOW WELL SHE TRIES TO SKATE
IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN!
BUT I'M

I'M THE ONE WHO MADE HER THAT WAY. I HAVE TO FIX HER.
AND HER MATCH WITH YOU, PRINCESS, THAT'LL BE THE FINAL STEP SHE NEEDS TO TAKE
SHE'S OVERCOME THE WALL OF NOT BEING ABLE TO SKATE FROM FEAR. SHE'S ONLY GOT TO GO ONE STEP FURTHER NOW.

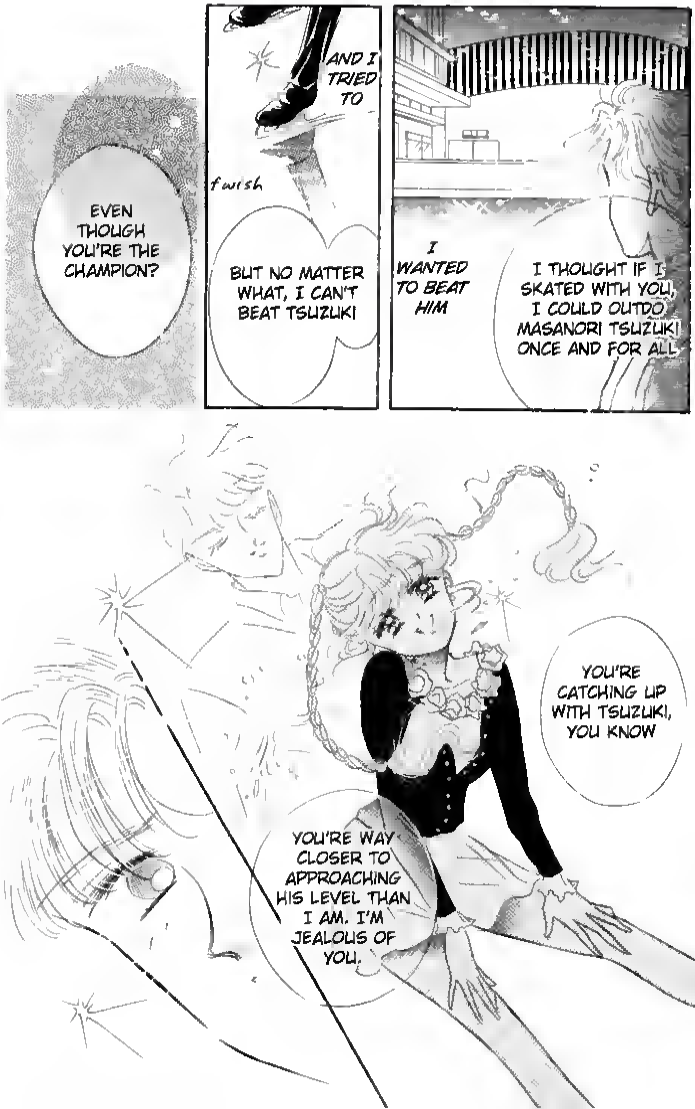
TELLING HER "I'LL PAIR SKATE" AND "I'LL STAND WITH YOU ON THE SAME STAGE" - THAT'LL BE ENOUGH INCENTIVE FOR HER TO CHASE AND REACH HER GOAL.
WELL SAID. BUT IF SHE WINS, THEN YOU'LL BE PAIRING OFF WITH HER
I DON'T EVEN DESERVE TO BE NEAR HER
BECOMING MY COACH
AND, EVEN CHOOSING THE SAME FREE SKATE MUSIC... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT

IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU, CANTY
THAT WE'VE MADE IT THIS FAR
I HAD TO MAKE HER EXPERIENCE A LOT OF STRONG EMOTIONS. IT'S VITAL TO BEING ABLE TO PORTRAY POWERFUL FEELINGS ON STAGE
ALL OF THAT WAS THE FASTEST WAY TO GET HER OVER HER SHOCK
I WASN'T LYING WHEN I SAID MY INTENTION WAS
ONLY TO INCREASE YOUR LEVEL AS A SKATER
SO EVERY THING YOU DID
WAS JUST FOR HER?
SLAP

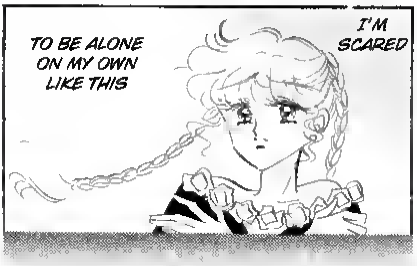

EVEN ME... I WAS JUST A PAWN IN YOUR GREATER PLAN?
SO ALL OF IT
YOU'RE CRUEL
I KNEW IT
TSUZUKI COULDN'T BEAR BEING MY COACH.
COMPARED TO HIS SKATING BEFORE
HE JUST WANTS TO SKATE

DO YOU BELIEVE
THAT GIRL WILL WIN?
NO
I'M GOING
TO WIN
clench
I WON'T BE BEATEN BY HER!
I WILL WIN
Junior Rink
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SAW A PAIR SKATING PROGRAM SO BEAUTIFUL IT MADE MY HEART SOAR
WAS IT...YOUR HALF OF THE PAIR PROGRAM YOU WANT TO SKATE WITH HER?

WATARU
badum
IT'S HARD TO GO IN, BUT I KNOW HE'S IN THERE
peek
THINKING I'D BE ABLE TO STEAL YOU AWAY FOR MYSELF, CHIERI
I WAS
NO ONE FORGOT ABOUT HIM AFTER HE RETIRED. EVERYONE ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT HOW AMAZING HE WAS.
EVEN THOUGH I BECAME THE NEW CHAMPION,
THAT GIRL MASANORI TSUZUKI WAS COACHING...WHEN SHE SAW YOU, THERE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE ANY CONFUSION IN HER EYES ABOUT WHO SHE THOUGHT WAS BETTER. I WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT HE WAS SO GOOD.


I THOUGHT IF I SKATED WITH YOU, I COULD OUTDO MASANORI TSUZUKI ONCE AND FOR ALL.
I WANTED TO BEAT HIM
AND I TRIED TO
twirsh
BUT NO MATTER WHAT, I CAN'T BEAT TSUZUKI
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE THE CHAMPION?
YOU'RE CATCHING UP WITH TSUZUKI, YOU KNOW
YOU'RE WAY CLOSER TO APPROACHING HIS LEVEL THAN I AM. I'M JEALOUS OF YOU.

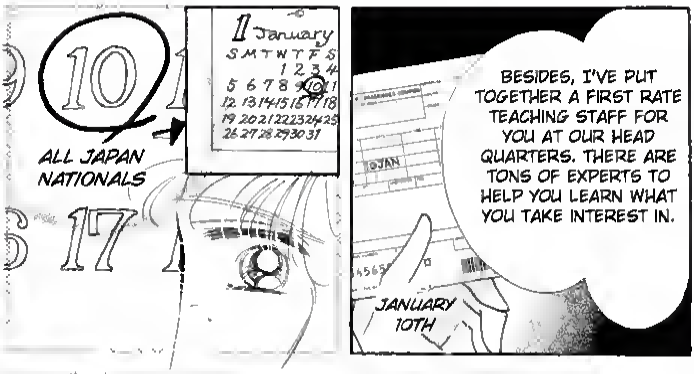
THE NIGHT YOU WENT TO SEE THE BALLET, YOU WERE SKATING ALONG, RIGHT?
IT MUST HAVE TAKEN A HIGH, PURE FORM OF LONGING FOR HER FORM OF EXPRESSION TO APPEAR AS COPYCATTING
YOU'RE SO SWEET
I KNOW IT'LL BE SOON
YOU WILL EVENTUALLY FIND YOURSELF
HEY CHIERI.
DON'T LET YOURSELF GET CARRIED AWAY
YOU WERE LIKE ANOTHER PERSON
YOUR SKATING WAS SHINING, STRONG AS I'VE EVER SEEN IT



AND TO CHALLENGE THE PRINCESS

A CHALLENGE
IS A BATTLE AGAINST YOURSELF
DO YOU ALWAYS GET HOME THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
fwip
THE PREPARATIONS FOR YOUR ACCEPTANCE AT OUR COMPANY'S MAIN OFFICE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED FASTER THAN I EXPECTED
SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE COACHING
ARE THINGS AT THE SKATING RINK GOOD AS USUAL?

THIS IS A TICKET, DEPARTING FROM JAPAN TO NEW YORK
IT'S FOR YOU
WAIT
YOU PROMISED ME THAT I STILL HAVE A YEAR LEFT! DIDN'T YOU SAY I COULD DO AS I PLEASED UNTIL THE END OF MIDDLE SCHOOL?! THIS IS JUST SO SUDDEN...
SKATING ?
IF YOU AREN'T ON STAGE, THEN WHAT'S THE POINT?


ALL JAPAN NATIONALS
January
BESIDES, I'VE PUT TOGETHER A FIRST RATE TEACHING STAFF FOR YOU AT OUR HEAD QUARTERS. THERE ARE TONS OF EXPERTS TO HELP YOU LEARN WHAT YOU TAKE INTEREST IN.
JANUARY 10TH

I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET TOO INVOLVED IN THAT.

I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN
AND I PROMISED I WOULD QUIT
I DON'T HAVE ANYONE LEFT IN THE WORLD BUT YOU. DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
SKATING IS WHAT TOOK YOUR MOTHER'S LIFE

I GUESS I WAS STILL HOLDING OUT HOPE
I CHOSE TO TRAIN HER INSTEAD
INSTEAD OF PAIR SKATING
"I'LL PAIR SKATE WITH WHOEVER WINS"
sigh
I WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE HAPPY. BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE HER DREAM COME TRUE EITHER.

I'M NOT GOING TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS OR NEW YEARS - I'M GOING TO DO NOTHING BUT PRACTICE!
YUP!
SO YOU'RE FINALLY GOING TO CHALLENGE THE PRINCESS AT THE ALL-JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIPS? ON JANUARY 10TH?
SUBWAY
TSUZUKI
YOU'RE GIVING ME ONE LAST CHANCE TO DO THIS, RIGHT?
I AM ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT YOU
I WON'T RUN AWAY ANYMORE
badum

ALL RIGHT!
CHIER! YOU'RE EXPOSING YOURSELF!
YEAH!
I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST!
I'M GOING TO GIVE THIS MY ALL, TSUZUKI!
A QUADRUPLE ?!
PLEASE COACH! I KNOW IT'S A LOT TO DO, BUT
THE ONLY THING I
A QUADRUPLE C N DO TO
FIGHT AT THE SAME LEVEL OF THE PRINCESS IS
Emperor
twip
AND THIS MUSIC
YOU AND THE PRINCESS ARE DIFFERENT, MS. ASUKA

panic
I DO!
BUT DO YOU STILL WANT TO GIVE IT A TRY?
WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS DANGEROUS
IF YOUR SPEED, HEIGHT, POWER, AND SPIRIT AREN'T THE SAME AS HERS, YOU'VE GOT NO CHANCE
BUT ANYWAY, WITH A LOT OF PRACTICE YOU CAN PULL OFF A QUADRUPLE
SHE ABSORBS THE IMPACT IN HER ANKLES AND LEGS. CANTY HAS REALLY STRONG HIPS
twish
scratch
scratch
THE MOMENT SHE LANDS FROM THIS JUMP, SHE PUTS FOUR TO FIVE TIMES HER BODY WEIGHT ON HER LEGS, ABOUT 450 LBS.

thud
whoosh
YOUR JUMP STILL ISN'T NEARLY HIGH ENOUGH
DO IT AGAIN!
OW
I KEEP FALLING TOO MUCH, MY HIPS ARE KILLING ME
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH
HEY
WELL
YOU HAVE TO CONVINCE TSUZUKI TO PAIR SKATE WITH CHIERI!
I SEE THAT
CHIERI'S DOING HER BEST - AND I'M BUSY MAKING LOTS OF COSTUMES FOR HER!

TODAY IT'S FEBRUARY 22ND, 1992, 7 AM. CLATELY I'VE BEEN GETTING UP SUPER EARLY!)

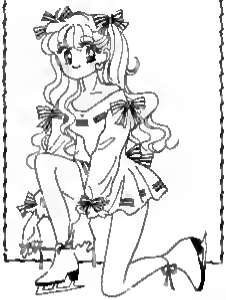
ITOU MIDORI JUST TOOK THE SILVER MEDAL AT THE ALBERTVILLE WINTER OLYMPICS!

THE EVENT STARTED WITH ORIGINAL PROGRAMS. I FELT REALLY STUBBORN AS I WATCHED HER MAKE A LOT OF MISTAKES WITH HER JUMPS, BUT HER FREE SKATE PIECE SET TO RACHMANINOV WAS SPOT ON! SHE ALSO MADE A MISTAKE ON HER TRIPLE AXEL BUT THE SECOND TIME SHE TRIED SHE DID IT BEAUTIFULLY! (THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A WOMAN IN THE OLYMPICS HAS PERFORMED A TRIPLE AXEL!)

HER FACE LOOKED SO HAPPY AFTER SHE PULLED THAT OFF. (NOW THAT I LOOK AT HER FACE. IT'S SO SWEET) HER SMILING IS CONTAGIOUS! NOW IT'S OVER, BUT IT WAS REALLY, REALLY WONDERFUL TO WATCH

RIGHT NOW I'M FEELING REALLY JOYOUS TOO. OH! THE SCORES ARE IN! FIVE OF THE JUDGES GAVE HER A 5.9!

ITOU MIDORI LOOKS SO BEAUTIFUL STANDING ON THE WINNER'S PODIUM RIGHT NOW, GIVING THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SMILE



slam

TSUZUKI?!

ARE YOU SERIOUS! WHAT'S THIS ABOUT YOU PAIR SKATING WITH WHOEVER WINS THE MATCH?!

WITH CHIERI AT THE LEVEL SHE IS

SHE CAN'T POSSIBLY BEAT THE PRINCESS

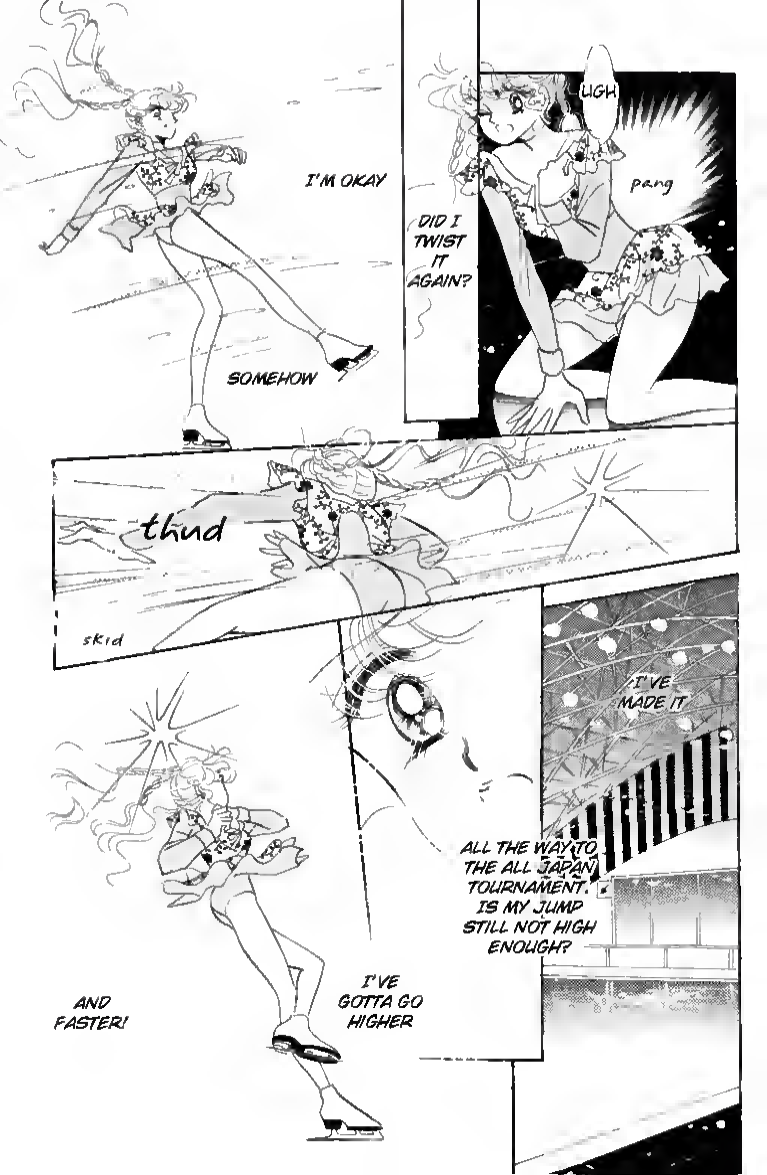
IF CANTY WINS, ARE YOU GOING TO PAIR SKATE WITH HER?

SHE'S NOT EVEN SUITED FOR PAIR SKATING. WHY, ALL OF A SUDDEN...

I'M A SELF CENTERED, MEAN JERK
NO
YOU DON'T HAVE TO QUIT ALREADY, DO YOU?
IF I WERE YOU, TSUZUKI
I'D PICK THE GIRL I LOVED
OVER MY FAMILY

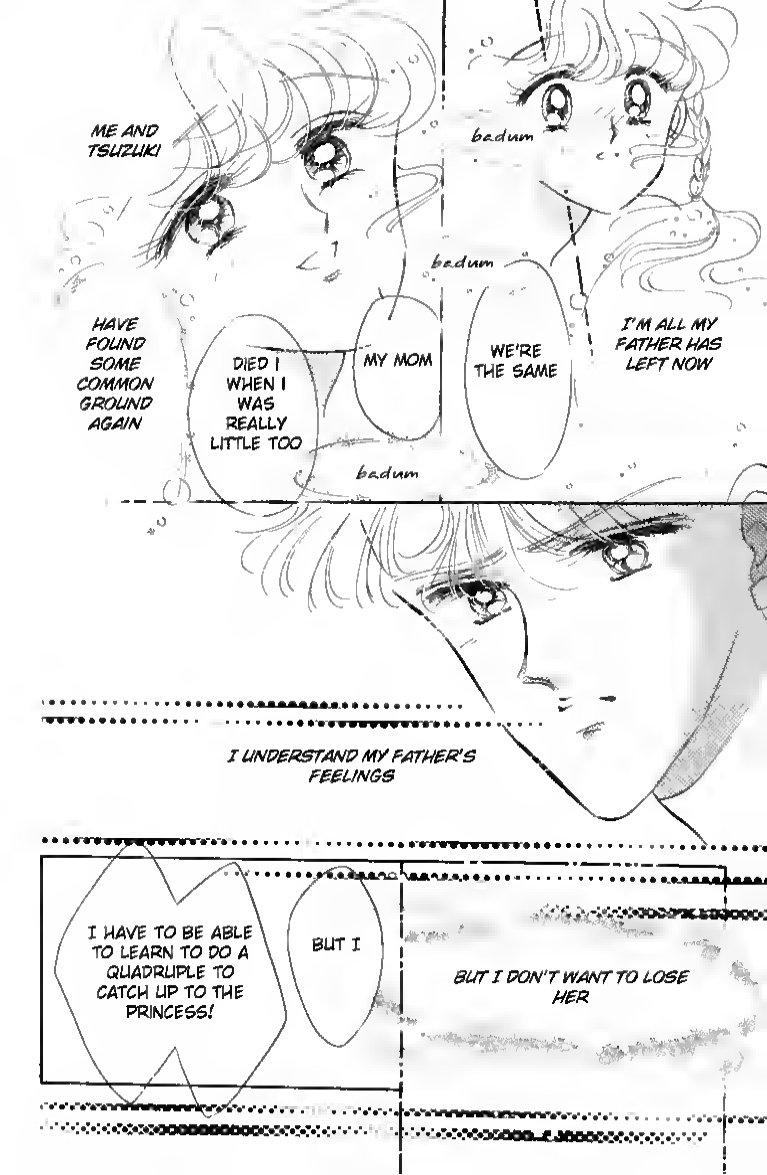
I DON'T
HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE ANYONE'S DREAMS COME TRUE ANYMORE
I THINK YOU'VE DONE REALLY WELL
YOU'VE SUBDUED YOUR OWN DREAMS WITH A CALM POWER FACE
AND I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE PURE FEELINGS
OF BOTH GIRLS
I DON'T HAVE ANYONE LEFT BUT YOU! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
ARE YOU GOING TO RUN AWAY FROM CHIERI?

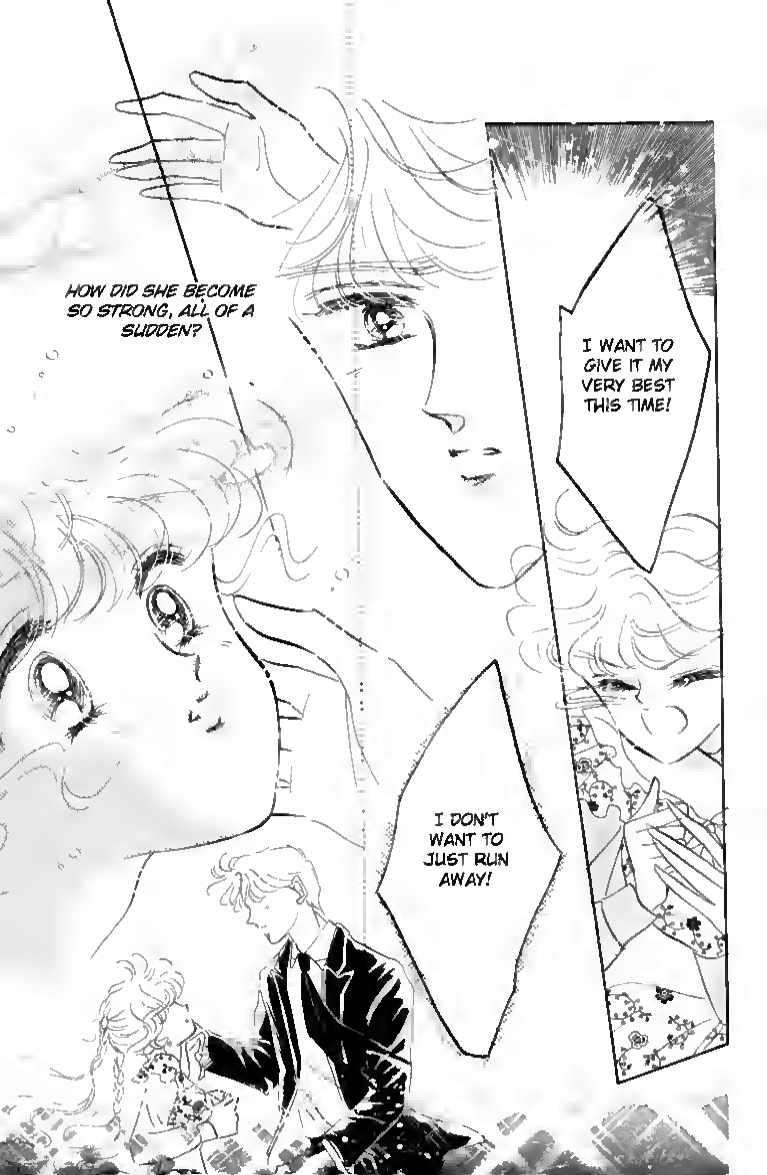
AND IT'S BECAUSE SHE WANTS YOU, TSUZUKI!
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, SHE'S GOING TO TRY TO BEAT THE PRINCESS WITH HER OWN QUADRUPLE SPECIAL MOVE! SHE'S OVERWORKING HERSELF
EVEN CHIERI KNOWS THAT SHE CAN'T BEAT THE PRINCESS THE WAY SHE IS NOW.
thud
skid
CHIERI'S HIPS ARE STARTING TO BECOME REALLY DAMAGED! ARE YOU SAYING YOU STILL WON'T GO TO HER?!


I'M OKAY
SOMEHOW
UGH
pang
DID I TWIST IT AGAIN?
thud
skid
I'VE MADE IT
ALL THE WAY TO THE ALL JAPAN TOURNAMENT. IS MY JUMP STILL NOT HIGH ENOUGH?
I'VE GOTTA GO HIGHER
AND FASTER!

STOP THAT!
thud
TSUZUKI?!

IF YOU KEEP ATTEMPTING THOSE IMPOSSIBLE JUMPS WITHOUT SUCCESS, YOU CAN BREAK YOUR HIPS
AND YOU'LL BE RUINED FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE
badum
TSUIZUKI
badum
badum
MY MOTHER WAS A FIGURE SKATER TOO
BUT SHE WAS LIKE YOU
SHE KEPT DOING IMPOSSIBLE JUMPS, AND INJURED HER HIPS. SHE INJURED THEM SO BADLY THAT SHE DIED GIVING BIRTH TO ME.
THAT'S WHY MY FATHER REFUSES TO LET ME SKATE ANYMORE


ME AND TSUZUKI
badum
badum
I'M ALL MY FATHER HAS LEFT NOW
WE'RE THE SAME
MY MOM
DIED I WHEN I WAS REALLY LITTLE TOO
HAVE FOUND SOME COMMON GROUND AGAIN
badum
I UNDERSTAND MY FATHER'S FEELINGS
I HAVE TO BE ABLE TO LEARN TO DO A QUADRUPLE TO CATCH UP TO THE PRINCESS!
BUT I
BUT I DON'T WANT TO LOSE HER

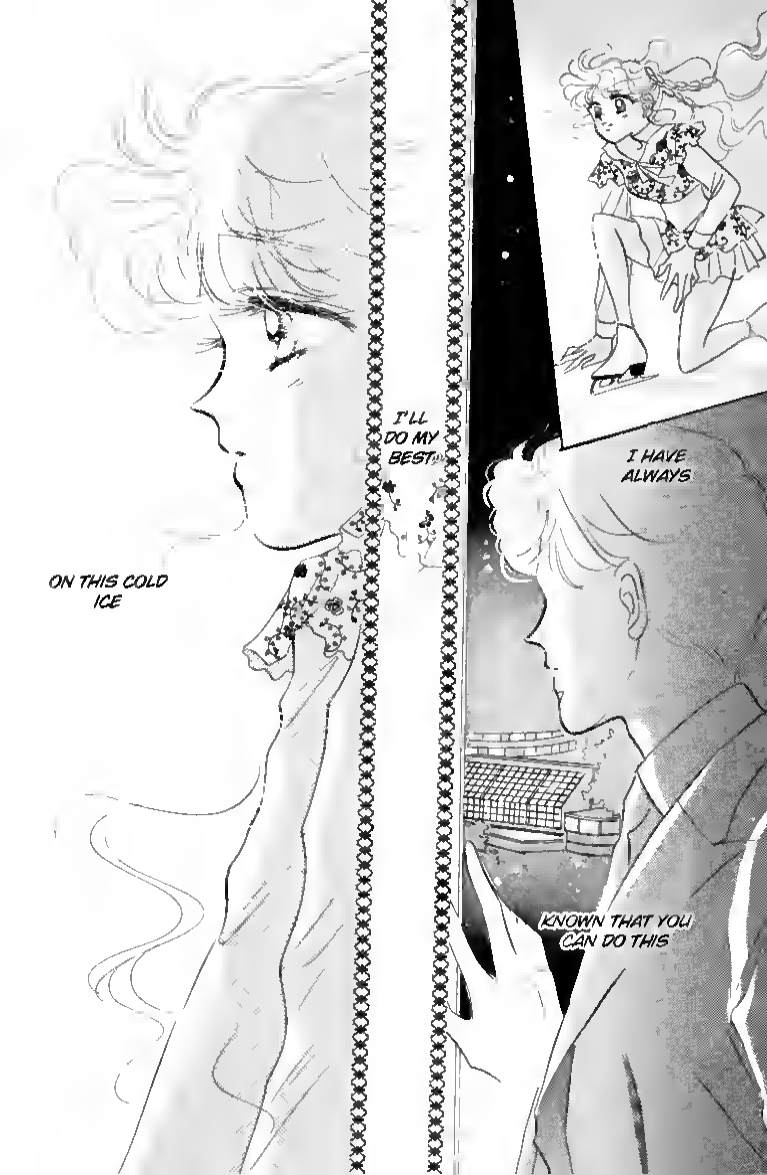

HOW DID SHE BECOME SO STRONG, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I WANT TO GIVE IT MY VERY BEST THIS TIME!
I DON'T WANT TO JUST RUN AWAY!

LET'S GO. WE'LL MEET FIRST THING TOMORROW, OKAY?
I'LL WALK YOU HOME
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE STILL? IT'S 10 PM - GO HOME!
twish
swish
!
locker room
clench
THIS IS HER RINK, AFTER ALL
THE PRINCESS IS STILL PRACTICING ...
PRINCESS?!
EMPEROR

I STILL HAVEN'T MASTERED IT! I CAN'T SKATE IT WELL YET
IF ONLY I HAD MORE TIME
I WANT TO SKATE!
badum
TSUZUKI?!
COME WITH ME

Tsuzuki Manor
TSUZUKI'S PRIVATE HOME RINK
WOW, THERE ARE SO MANY TROPHIES ...!
boys junior skate division 1st rank
1st rank
sniffle
THAT SEEMS SO LONG AGO NOW
WE USED TO PRACTICE FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL HERE

I
I'M IN THE PRESENSE OF SUCH AN AMAZING PERSON
grip
TSUZUKI
IF YOUR INJURIES ARE STILL HURTING, YOU HAVE TO STOP.
YOU CAN PRACTICE HERE
SO THAT YOU HAVE NO REGRETS ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING
I...
I UM....
rub rub
DO YOUR BEST
thud


I'LL DO MY BEST...
ON THIS COLD ICE
I HAVE ALWAYS
KNOWN THAT YOU CAN DO THIS

WHEN I'M ON THE RINK, I CAN FEEL TSUZUKI NEAR ME, WATCHING OVER ME.
I WILL DO MY BEST TOO
ALL THE EDGE MARKS
PILING UP EVERYWHERE
WATARU
AND THE PRINCESS
AND TSUZUKI
ON TOP OF THE ICE LIKE THIS

I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING HELD TIGHTLY IN TSUZUKI'S ARMS.

AND LIKE
I CAN DO ANYTHING....
peep
chirp chirp
rustle
click
ASUKA CHIERI... "CHERRY", HUH?
snore
tick

"CHERRY", HUH?
I'M SORRY
BUT DON'T GIVE UP ON FIGURE SKATING
BUT
AND I'M NOT HONEST
I'M NOT KIND

YOU CAN ACCESS MY RINK WITH MY OLD LOCKER KEY. YOU CAN USE THE RINK ANY TIME - JUST HAVE FAITH IN YOURSELF AND WORK HARD FOR THE ALL-JAPAN TOURNAMENT!
rrrrrrrrrrrring
rrrrrrrrrrrring

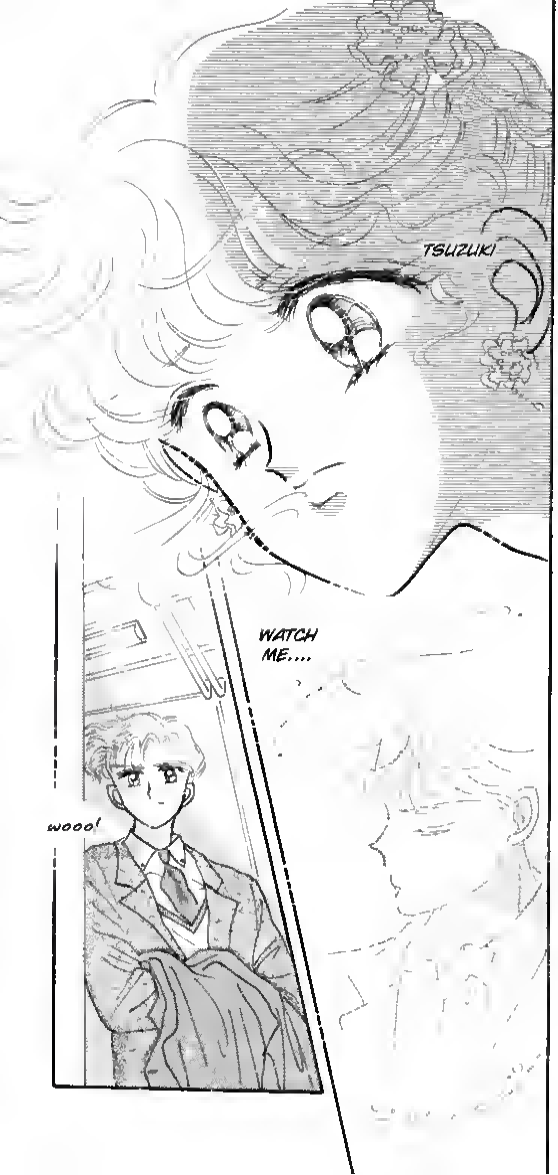
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND WORK HARD FOR ALL JAPAN!
clutch

CANTY! WHERE'S TSUZUKI?

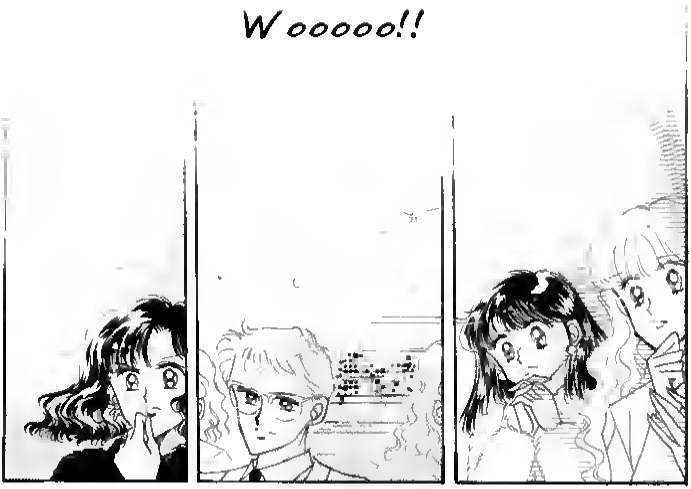
woo hoo!

All-Japan Junior division Figure Skating Tournament
DAY ONE: GIRLS ORIGINAL PROGRAM
chatter
ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE SECOND SKATING GROUP, PLEASE MOVE TO RINK SIDE
chatter
woo!

PRINCESS
I'M GOING TO DO IT!
ENTRY NUMBER FIVE, MISS ASUKA CHIERI
wahhhh!!
clench



WATCH ME, TSUZUKI!



WHENEVER I THINK BACK ABOUT CHIERI, I REALIZE HOW PRECIOUS THIS WORK WAS TO ME.

WHEN I FIRST STARTED THIS SERIALIZATION, WHICH WAS THE LONGEST ONE I HAD DONE, I DIDN'T KNOW IF I COULD DO IT. BUT IT WAS LIKE A MOUNTAIN I WANTED TO CLIMB. (THE ROUGH DRAFT FOR THIS SERIES WAS 4~5 BOOKS!)

DURING SERIALIZATION, MY EDITOR CHANGED TOO (SO8 SO8) I TOTALLY PANICKED AND KEPT CRYING WHENEVER I HAD TO TALK ABOUT IT. (I WONDER HOW MANY TIMES I CRIED?) I WAS REALLY CONCERNED BEFORE I FINALLY DECIDED ON MY CURRENT EDITOR - I'M SORRY, BECAUSE NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I WAS WAS PRETTY RUDE BACK THEN.

NOW THAT I'M LOOKING BACK ON THE CHERRY PROJECT, WHEN I COMPARE CHIERI AND MYSELF FROM BACK THEN AND NOW, I'M A LITTLE EMBARRASSED. WHEN I BEGAN WORKING WITH CHIERI I REALLY LOVED PEOPLE WITH COOL POKER FACES, AND I WANTED TO BE LIKE THAT MYSELF.

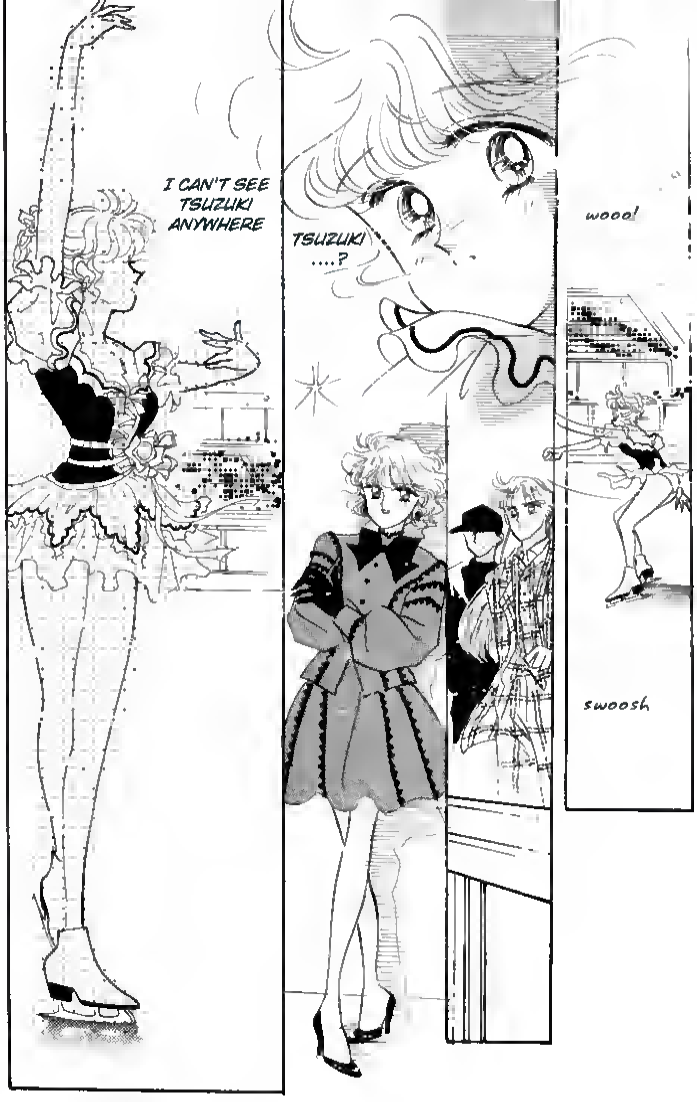
WHENEVER I WRITE COMICS, I TRY TO THINK ABOUT THE PEOPLE I LOVED OR LIKED. THE PROCESS IS PAINFUL SOMETIMES BUT IT ALLOWS ME TO REACH A HIGHER LEVEL, JUST LIKE HOW CHIERI'S LOVE ELEVATED HER TOO, YOU KNOW? I WONDER IF I'M THE SAME WAY TOO.

I WONDER IF LOVE CAN REALLY BE ETERNAL LIKE THAT?
I WANT TO HAVE A REALLY WONDERFUL LOVE TOO.

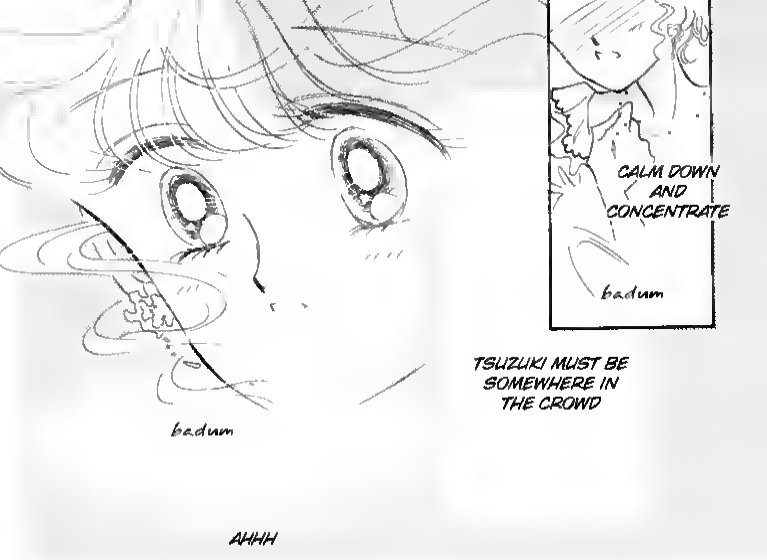
OF COURSE, I LOVE ALL OF YOU A LOT.
IT MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY.

WRITTEN IN AZABU JUUBAN, MARCH 2ND, 6:35 AM, 1992.

wooo!
ENTRY NUMBER FIVE, MISS ASUKA CHIERI


I CAN'T SEE TSUZUKI ANYWHERE
TSUZUKI ....?
wooo!
swoosh

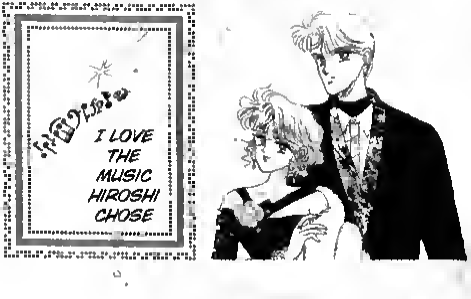
swish
gasp
whoosh
TSUZUKI, WHERE ARE YOU?
IT'S OKAY! FIRST UP IS YOUR DOUBLE AXEL SPECIAL!
IT'S STARTED!
thunk
swish
CHIERI?
badum
I CAN'T LET MYSELF GET DISTRACTED!
badum



THAT'S RIGHT. IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

TSUZUKI HAS ALWAYS

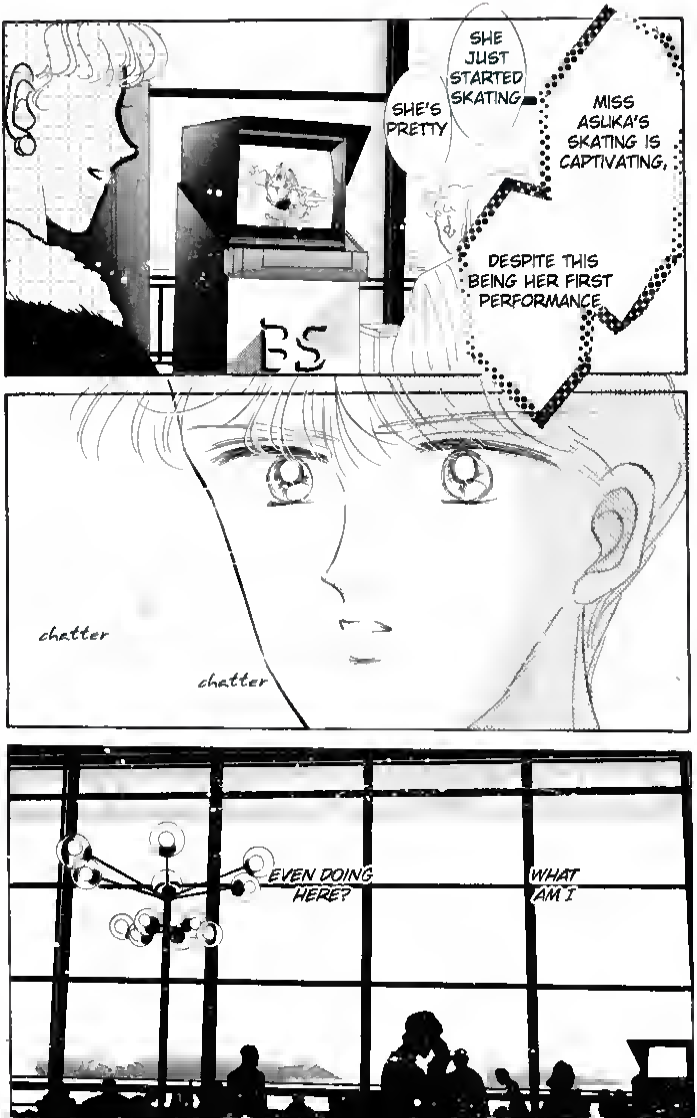
WATCHED OVER ME



THIS IS THE MUSIC TSUZUKI AND I SKATED TO AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL
BACK THEN, I WAS SO NERVOUS ABOUT IT
OH, I LOVE THIS PART. I LOVE THIS MELLOW PIANO PIECE. WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT OF DIFFICULT TIMES TOGETHER, HAVEN'T WE.
FLIGHT 802 TO NEW YORK
chatter
chatter
gasp
TSUZUKI
.....

TSUZUKI

HEY?
HAVEN'T I
IMPROVED A LOT
WITH MY SKATING
SINCE THEN?
HAVEN'T I?
TSUZUKI


SHE'S PRETTY
SHE JUST STARTED SKATING
MISS ASUKA'S SKATING IS CAPTIVATING,
DESPITE THIS BEING HER FIRST PERFORMANCE
BS
chatter
chatter
WHAT AM I EVEN DOING HERE?

TSUIZUKI
THERE'S ONE LAST THING I'VE LEFT UNDONE
AM I RUNNING AWAY?
I MADE A PROMISE THAT I'D PAIR SKATE WITH WHOEVER WINS

IF I CAN'T KEEP MY PROMISES, I WON'T BE ABLE TO FOLLOW IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS
A PROMISE TO ME AS WELL, DID YOU NOT?
BUT YOU MADE
HEY
WHERE'S TSUZUKI?
pant
...pant
CHIERI!
THAT WAS AWESOME!
woooo!

DIDN'T HE
woo hoo!
clap clap clap
COME TODAY?
badum
CHIERI! AMAZING! FOUR JUDGES GAVE YOU 5.7'S!
2 3 4 5.7 5.7 5.7 5.7 6 5.6
wooo!
blink
1 5.6 2 5.7 3 5.
pop
BUT THE PRINCESS WILL GET MORE THAN 5.8'S. SHE'LL PROBABLY GET ALL 6.0'S
IF I CAN'T PULL OFF A QUADRUPLE DURING MY FREE SKATE ROUTINE, I'LL NEVER REACH THE PRINCESS'S LEVEL!
I CAN'T REALLY TAKE HER ON!
THIS IS NO GOOD

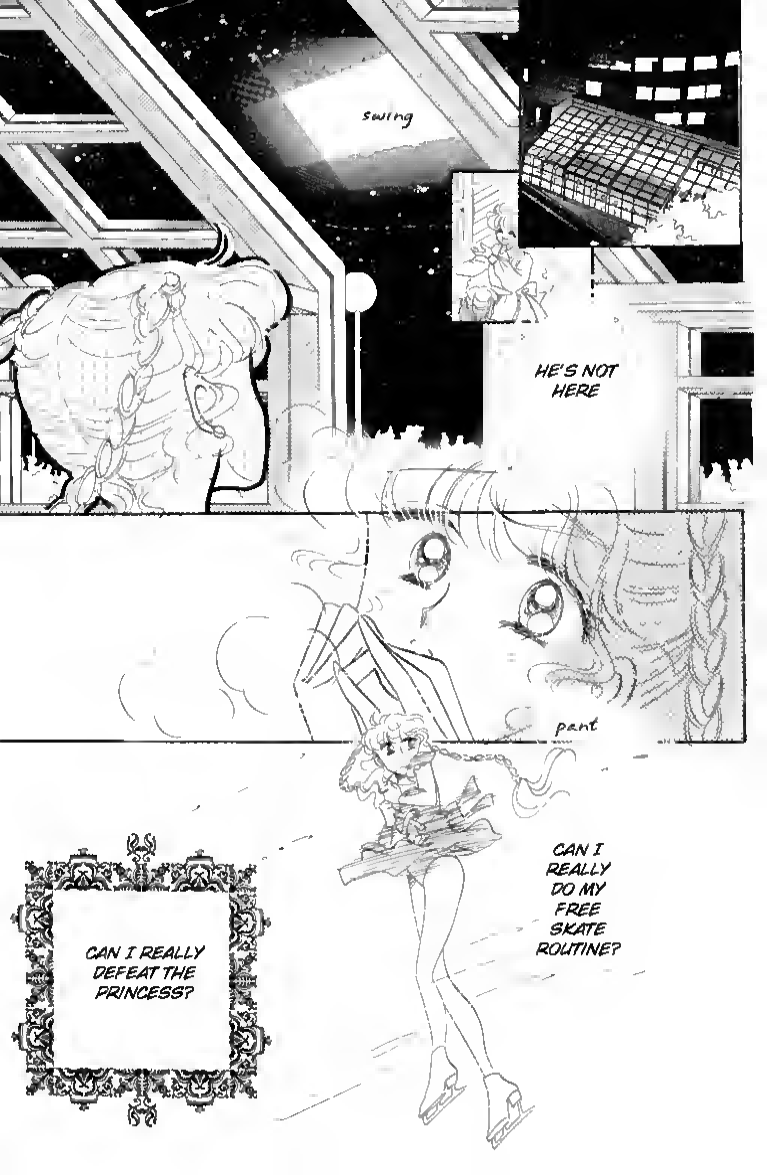
NO, BUT IF HE'S AT HOME, WHY WOULD HE COME HERE?
I WONDER IF I'LL FIND TSUZUKI AT HIS RINK?
TSUZUKI SAID I COULD USE HIS PRIVATE RINK ANY TIMEI WANTED. THE LOCKER KEY HE GAVE ME BEFORE IS ACTUALLY A KEY TO HIS RINK AT HOME.
I'VE GOTTA GO PRACTICE SOME MORE
TSUZUKI
OH NO, I CAN'T CRY ABOUT THIS
I WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM?
TSUZUKI HAS NEVER LET ANYONE ELSE USE HIS PRIVATE RINK BEFORE
CHIERI
I WANT TO SEE HIM RIGHT AWAY

CHIERI
YOU'RE GOING TO FOCUS ALL YOUR POWER ON YOUR MATCH, RIGHT?
YOU BELIEVE IN TSUZUKI, RIGHT?
THIS KEY IS A VERY IMPORTANT KEY

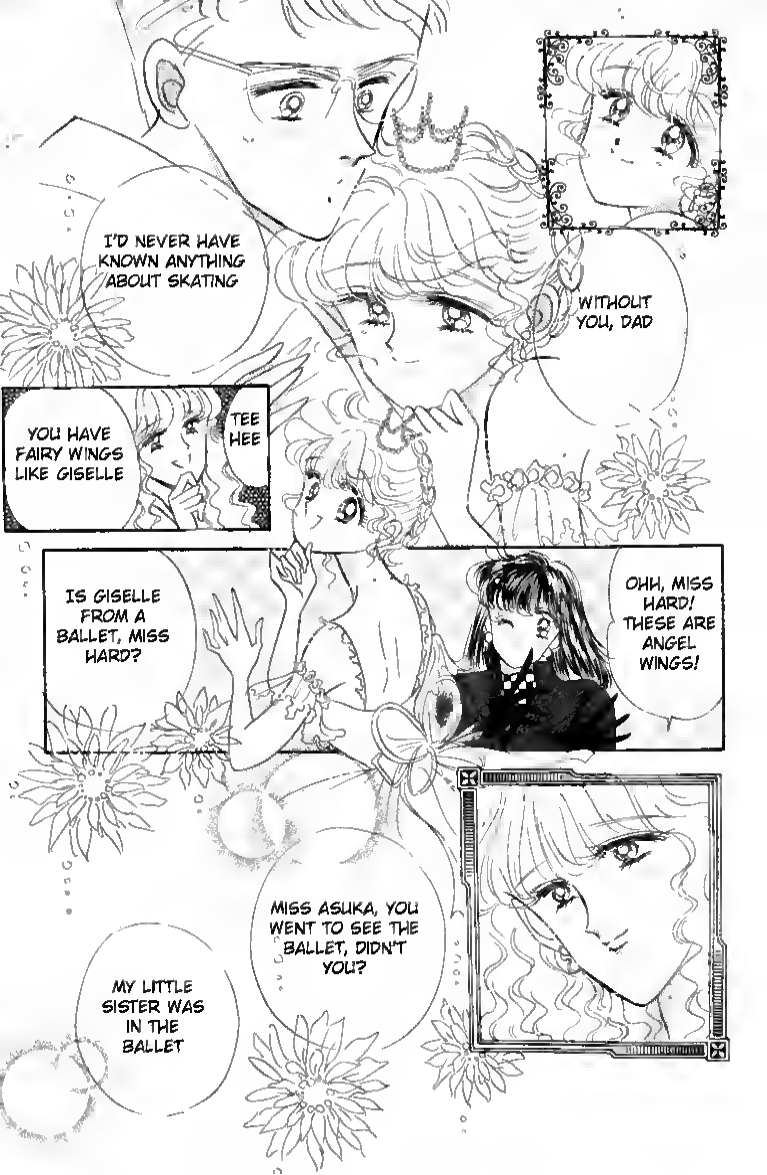
BUT YOU HAVE TO BE PRECISE, AND MEASURE YOUR TIME ON THE ICE IN SECONDS, NOT MINUTES
YOU CAN DO A QUADRUPLE IF YOU JUMP REALLY HIGH

I NEVER INTENDED TO BRING ANYBODY BUT MY PAIR SKATING PARTNER HERE

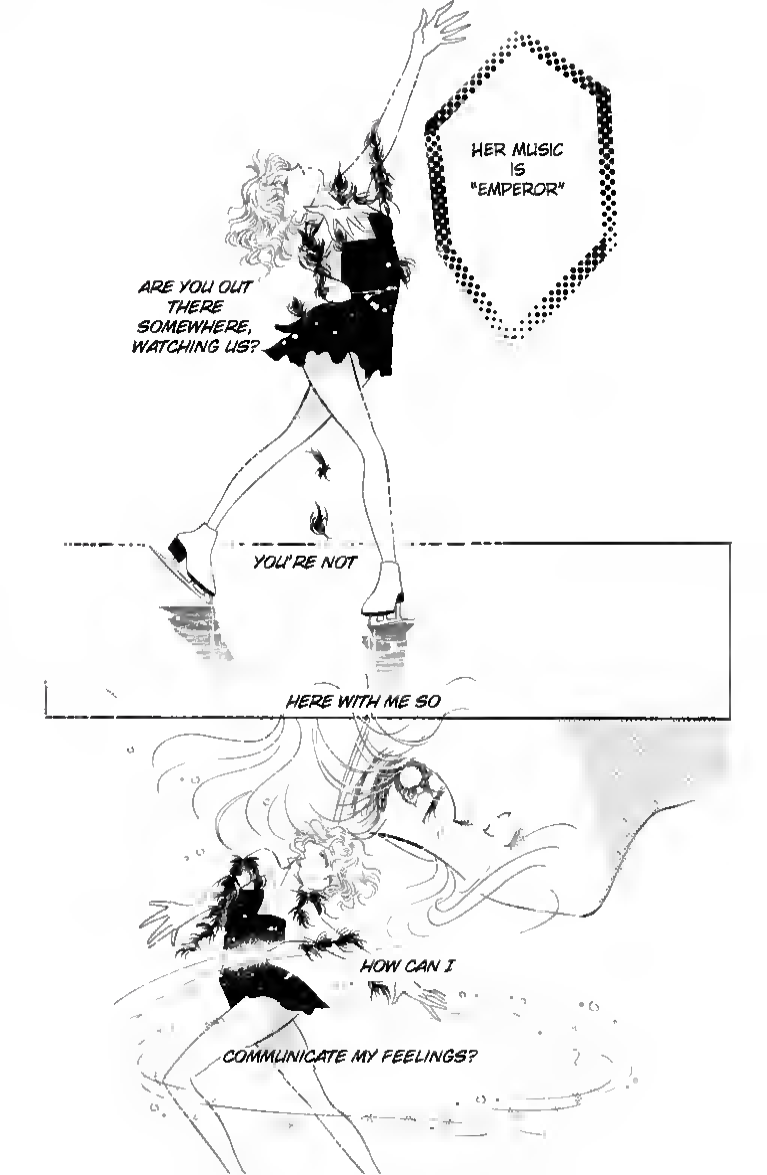
ASUKA CHIERI
dash
ENTRY NUMBER 21. MISS CANTY AKIYAMA
whoosh
I HAVE MY SKATING DOWN
NOBODY CAN REACH MY LEVEL
WHOEVER WINS, I'M GOING TO PAIR SKATE WITH
AND IT DOESNT MATTER IF TSUZUKI COMES BACK OR NOT
ONLY I CAN SKATE LIKE I DO

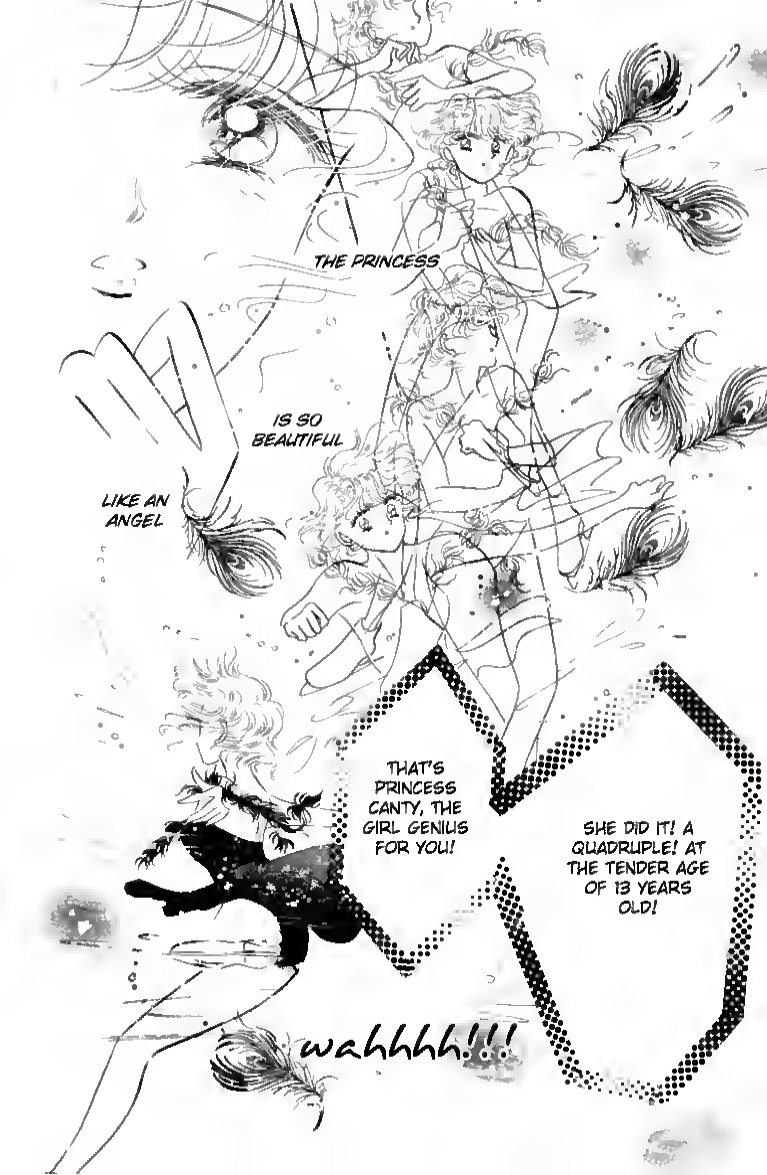

swing
HE'S NOT HERE
pant
CAN I REALLY DEFEAT THE PRINCESS?
CAN I REALLY DO MY FREE SKATE ROUTINE?

HOW CAN I COMPETE AGAINST HER WITH "THE EMPEROR"
HOW SHOULD I SKATE, WHEN THE PRINCESS AND I ARE BOTH USING THE SAME MUSIC
DAY TWO. GIRLS FREE SKATE
GIRLS SINGLES ORIGINAL PROGRAM RANKINGS
1ST: CANTY ARIYAMA
TAKAJAWA WING
2ND: MATSUZA MARI
PARTNERED ORGANIZATION
3RD: KANNO JUNKO
SHIGUZUN
FOURTH: ARUKA CHIERI
TAKAJAWA WING
FIFTH
SIXTH
chatter
chatter
PURE WHITE
IT USED TO BE THAT EVERYONE WORE WHITE LIKE THAT FOR FIGURE SKATING
OHH! YOU LOOK SO CUTE IN THAT, CHIERI!


I'D NEVER HAVE KNOWN ANYTHING ABOUT SKATING
WITHOUT YOU, DAD
YOU HAVE FAIRY WINGS LIKE GISELLE
TEE HEE
IS GISELLE FROM A BALLET, MISS HARD?
OHH, MISS HARD! THESE ARE ANGEL WINGS!
MISS ASUKA, YOU WENT TO SEE THE BALLET, DIDN'T YOU?
MY LITTLE SISTER WAS IN THE BALLET

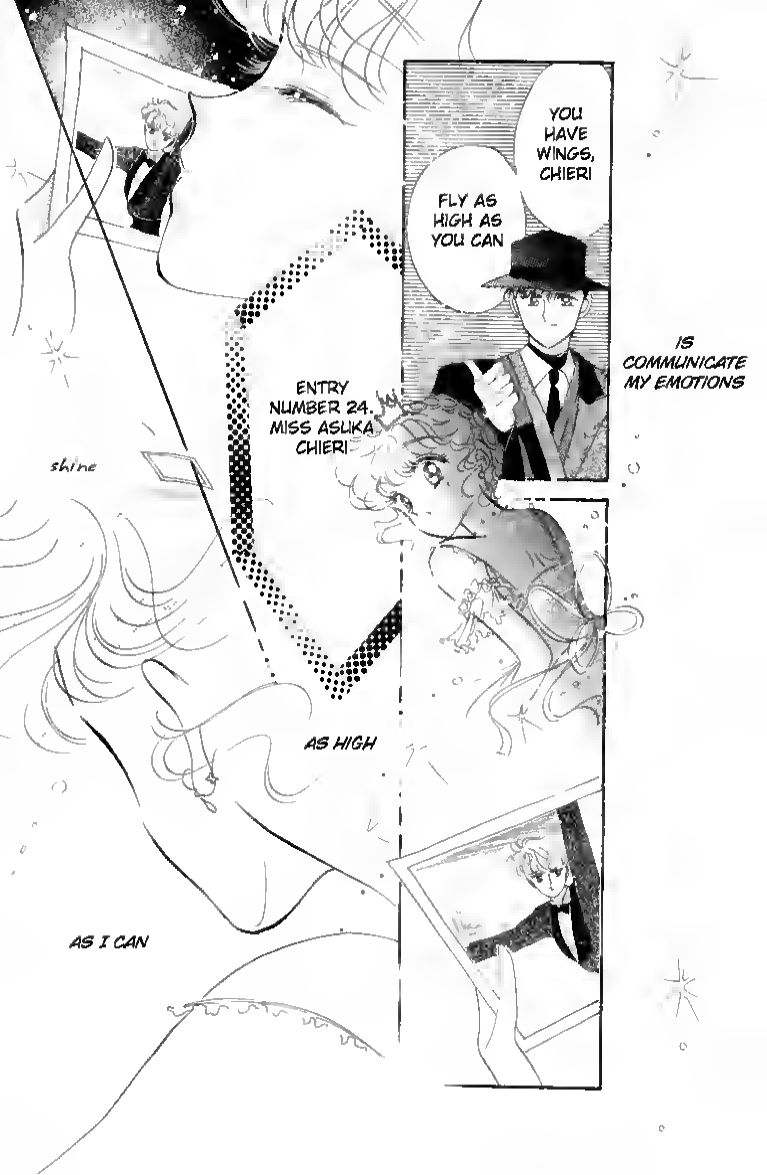
TSUZUKI
TOLD ME HE WANTED YOU TO SEE IT BECAUSE IT WOULD HELP YOU WITH YOUR POWER OF EXPRESSION
wahhhh!!
WHENEVER I WANT TO SEE TSUZUKI THE MOST, HE'S NEVER HERE WITH ME
I KNEW IT. IT WAS TSUZUKI AFTER ALL
ENTRY NUMBER 23, MISS CANTY AKIYAMA


HER MUSIC IS "EMPEROR"
ARE YOU OUT THERE SOMEWHERE, WATCHING US?
YOU'RE NOT
HERE WITH ME SO
HOW CAN I
COMMUNICATE MY FEELINGS?


THE PRINCESS
IS SO BEAUTIFUL
LIKE AN ANGEL
THAT'S PRINCESS CANTY, THE GIRL GENIUS FOR YOU!
SHE DID IT! A QUADRUPLE! AT THE TENDER AGE OF 13 YEARS OLD!
wahhhh!!!

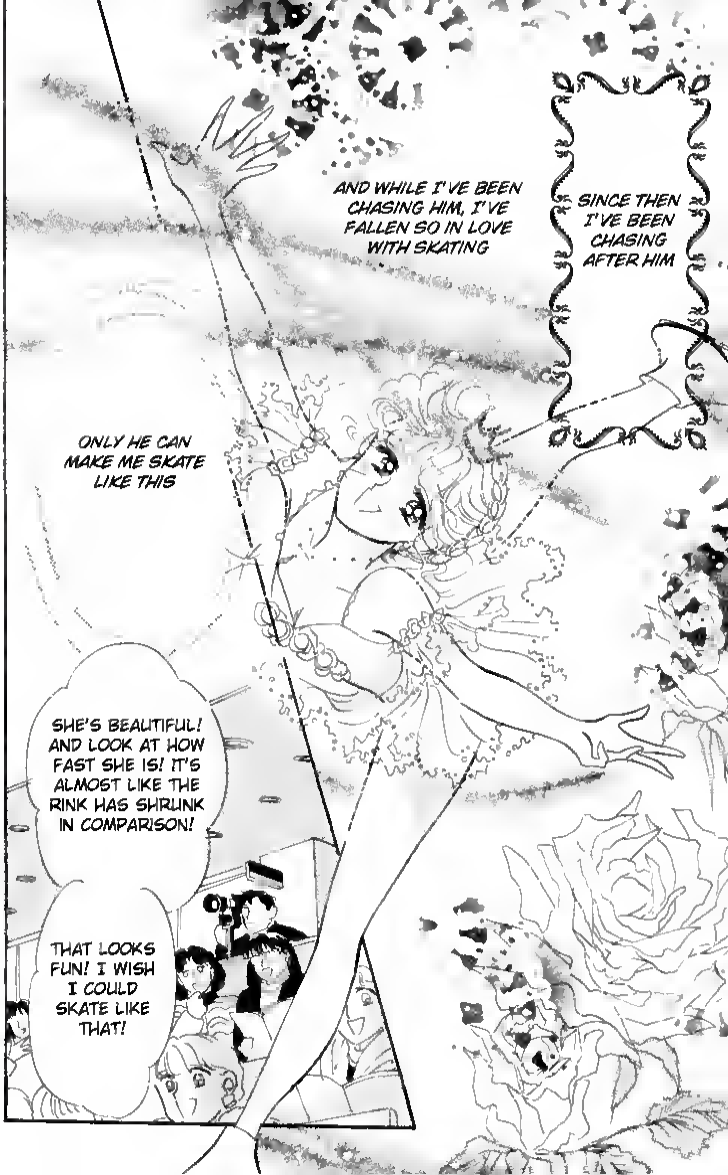
NOW SHE'S DOING A SPIN WITH BOTH LEGS!
SHE'S DANCING SO ELEGANTLY TO "EMPEROR" EVEN ON ICE!
SHE'S COMMUNICATING HOW SHE FEELS. SHE RULES THE HEAVENS OF THE RINK FROM HER LOFTY HEIGHTS. HER SKATING IS SO HIGH CLASS...
NOBODY BUT THE PRINCESS CAN SKATE AS PROUDLY AS ALL THAT
YOU'RE RIGHT
wooo!
I CAN'T SKATE LIKE THAT AT ALL

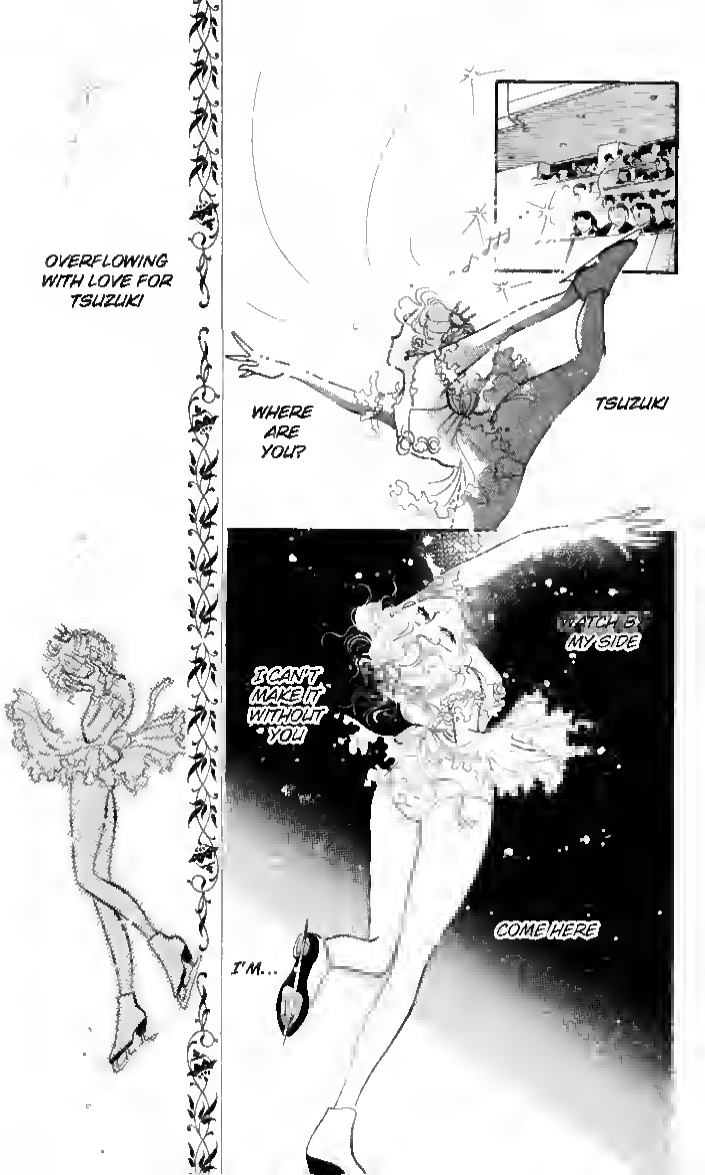
YOU HAVE FOUR AND A HALF MINUTES TO SORT IT OUT
YOU'RE NOT A COPY MACHINE ANYMORE
CHIERI
IF THERE'S A DIFFERENT WAY YOU WANT TO SKATE
THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DEFEAT YOU IS YOURSELF
THE ONLY THING I HAVE TO DO
IT LOOKS LIKE OUR WINNER HAS BEEN DECIDED - IT'S PRINCESS CANTY!
LOOK AT THIS...! SIX, SEVEN...EIGHT 6.0'S! EIGHT OF THE JUDGES GAVE HER 6.0'S!
6.0 5.9 6.0
WOOOO


YOU HAVE WINGS, CHIERI
FLY AS HIGH AS YOU CAN
IS COMMUNICATE MY EMOTIONS
ENTRY NUMBER 24. MISS ASUKA CHIERI
shine
AS HIGH
AS I CAN

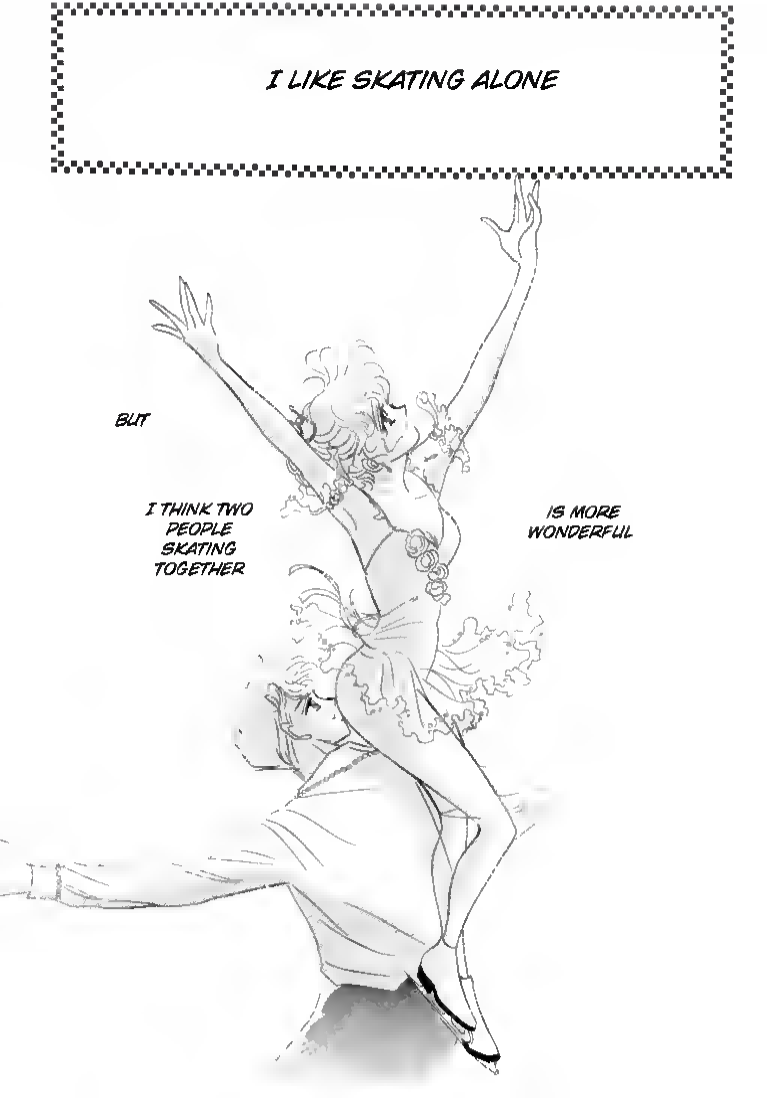
twirl

swish
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
OHHH
SUCH LOVELY SKATING, WITH NO APPROACH RUN! WE'VE JUST WITNESSED THE SECOND TIME A QUADRUPLE HAS SUCCESSFULLY BEEN COMPLETED IN THE JUNIOR GIRLS DIVISION!!
I REMEMBER NOW! MY HEART POUNDED JUST LIKE THIS THE FIRST TIME I SAW TSUZUKI SKATE!
EVER SINCE THEN, TSUZUKI HAS BEEN... MY EMPEROR
WOOOO!!!


AND WHILE I'VE BEEN CHASING HIM, I'VE FALLEN SO IN LOVE WITH SKATING
SINCE THEN I'VE BEEN CHASING AFTER HIM
ONLY HE CAN MAKE ME SKATE LIKE THIS
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL! AND LOOK AT HOW FAST SHE IS! IT'S ALMOST LIKE THE RINK HAS SHRUNK IN COMPARISON!
THAT LOOKS FUN! I WISH I COULD SKATE LIKE THAT!


OVERFLOWING WITH LOVE FOR TSUZUKI
WHERE ARE YOU?
TSUZUKI
I'M...
COME HERE
I CAN'T MAKE IT WITHOUT YOU!
WATCH BY MY SIDE

silence
jump
swish
gasp
IT'S LIKE THERE'S SOMEONE SKATING
RIGHT NEXT TO HER

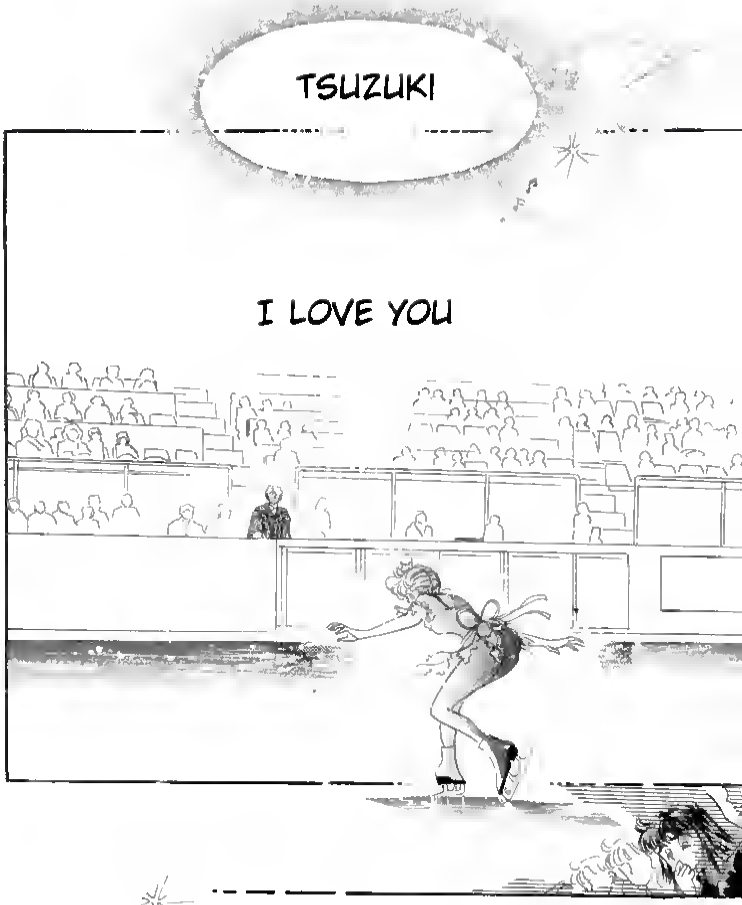

I LIKE SKATING ALONE
BUT
I THINK TWO PEOPLE SKATING TOGETHER
IS MORE WONDERFUL

ESPECIALLY
IF IT'S WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE
SHE'S DOING A DEATH SPIRAL BY HERSELF?!

RIGHT?
DON'T YOU THINK
PAIRS ARE BETTER TOO, TSUZUKI...?

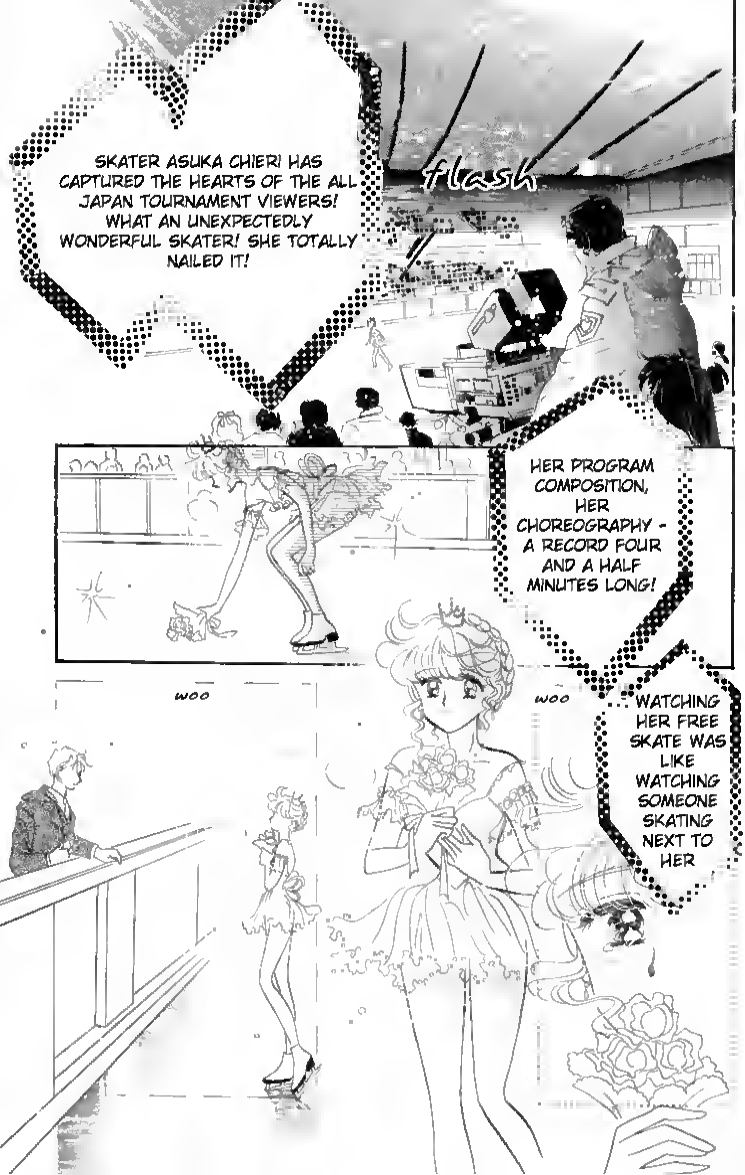
A LIFT?
OHH, IF ONLY
YOU WERE HERE
IT'S KIND OF SAD
WHY IS SHE PAIR SKATING BY HERSELF?
Nikon
THIS MUST BE A PAIR PROGRAM ROUTINE, RIGHT?
WITH ME NOW
whisper
WHERE'S HER PARTNER?

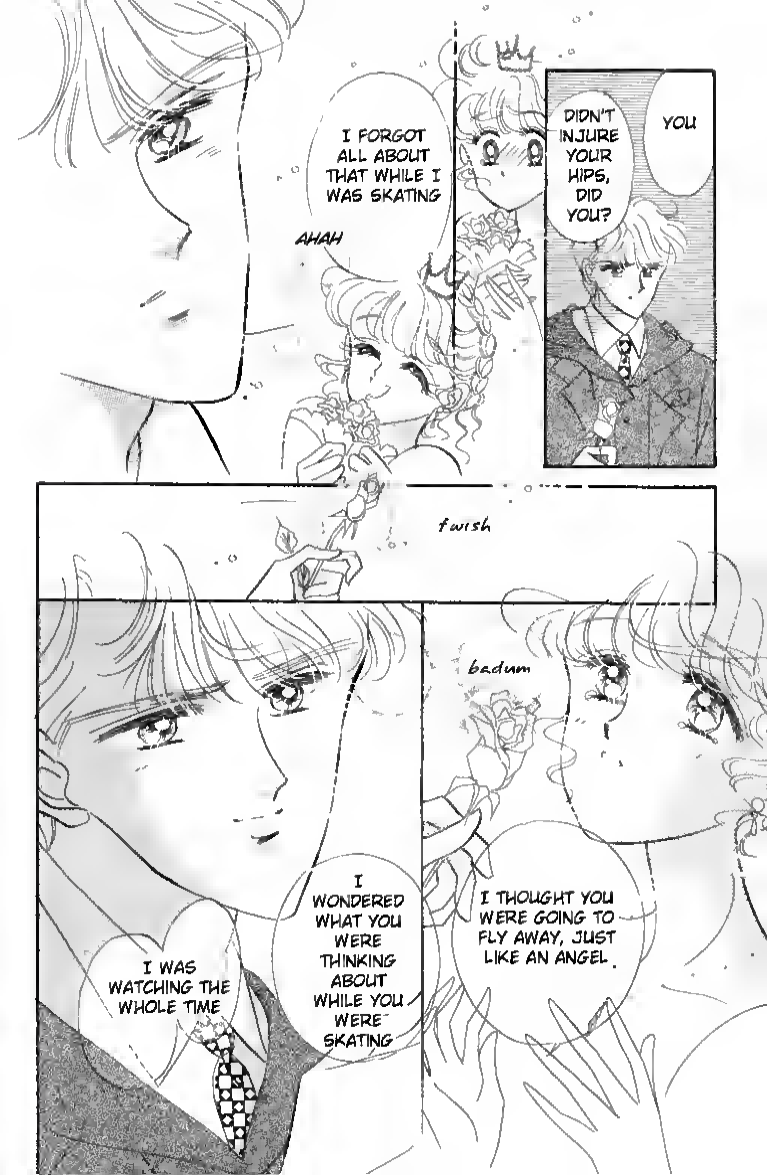
LOOK
THIS IS
DESTINY
YOU AND I HAVE HAD SO MANY CHANCE, DESTINED MEETINGS ALREADY

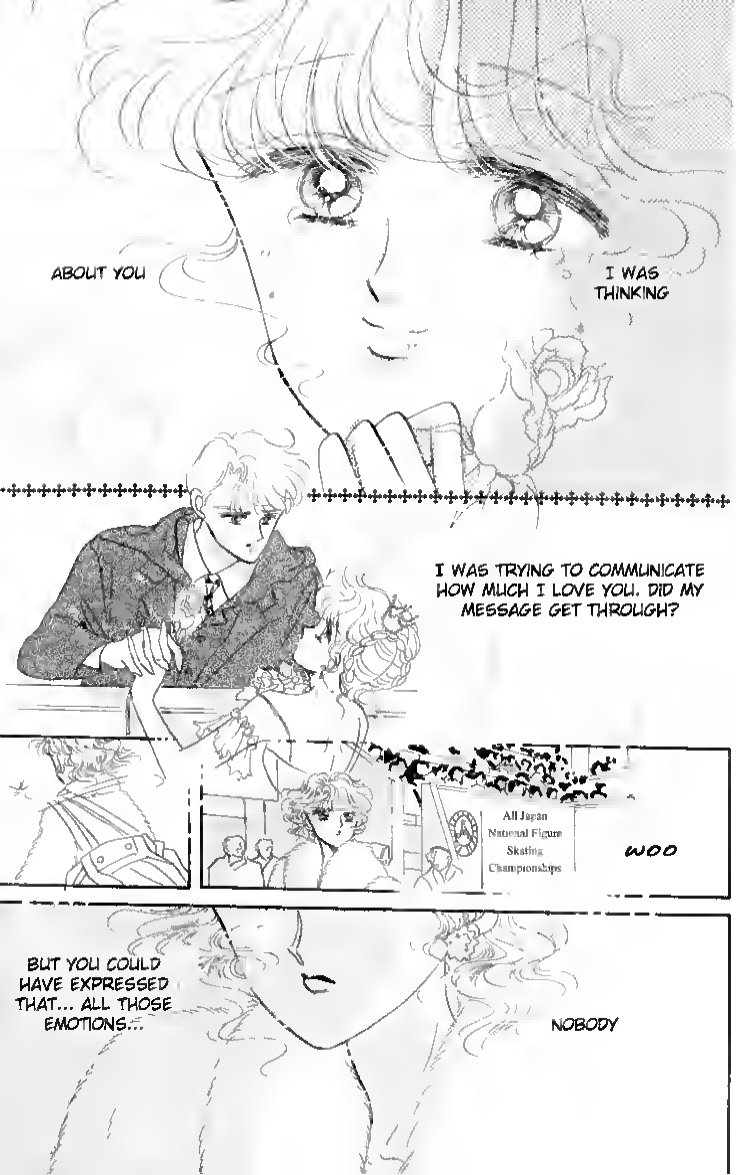


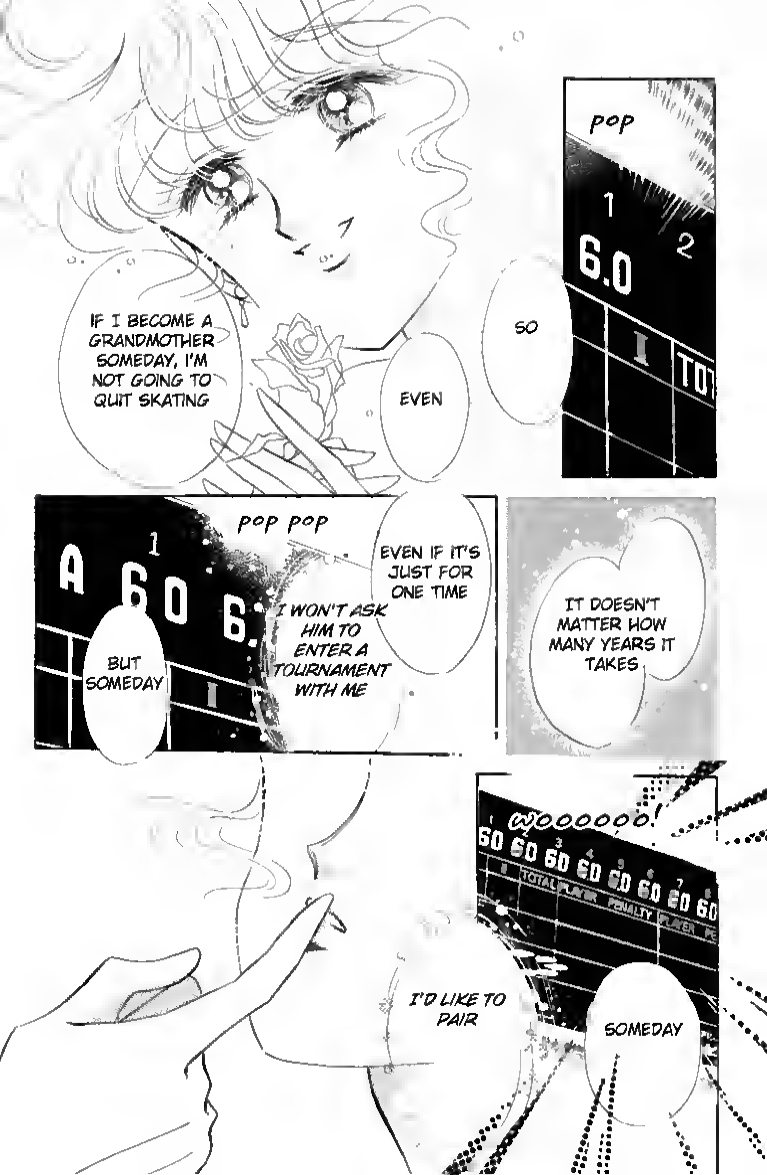
clap clap

wahhhhhh!!!

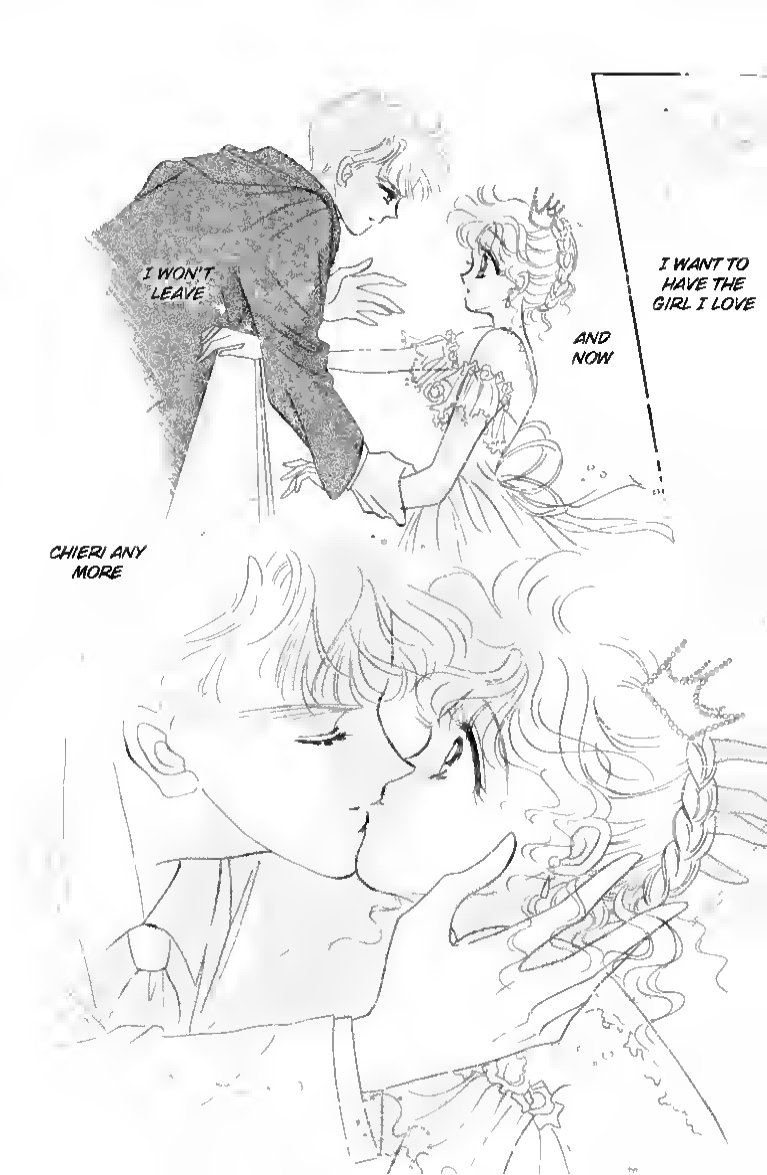

SKATER ASUKA CHIERI HAS CAPTURED THE HEARTS OF THE ALL JAPAN TOURNAMENT VIEWERS! WHAT AN UNEXPECTEDLY WONDERFUL SKATER! SHE TOTALLY NAILED IT!
flash
HER PROGRAM COMPOSITION, HER CHOREOGRAPHY - A RECORD FOUR AND A HALF MINUTES LONG!
woo
woo
WATCHING HER FREE SKATE WAS LIKE WATCHING SOMEONE SKATING NEXT TO HER


I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THAT WHILE I WAS SKATING
AHAH
DIDN'T INJURE YOUR HIPS, DID YOU?
YOU
fwish
badum
I WONDERED WHAT YOU WERE THINKING ABOUT WHILE YOU WERE SKATING
I WAS WATCHING THE WHOLE TIME
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO FLY AWAY, JUST LIKE AN ANGEL


ABOUT YOU
I WAS THINKING
I WAS TRYING TO COMMUNICATE HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU. DID MY MESSAGE GET THROUGH?
All Japan National Figure Skating Championships
WOO
BUT YOU COULD HAVE EXPRESSED THAT... ALL THOSE EMOTIONS...
NOBODY


IF I BECOME A GRANDMOTHER SOMEDAY, I'M NOT GOING TO QUIT SKATING
EVEN
SO
POP
1
2
6.0
POP POP
EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR ONE TIME
I WON'T ASK HIM TO ENTER A TOURNAMENT WITH ME
BUT SOMEDAY
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY YEARS IT TAKES
WOOOOOO!
I'D LIKE TO PAIR
SOMEDAY

WOULD YOU BE MY PAIR SKATING PARTNER?
WOOOOOO....!
I WON'T GIVE UP EITHER
I'LL BECOME STRONG LIKE YOU
I WILL MAKE MY DREAM OF PAIR SKATING COME TRUE. AND THEN, I'LL FOLLOW IN MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS AT THE COMPANY
YOU'VE DONE WELL TO MAKE IT THIS FAR


I WON'T LEAVE
I WANT TO HAVE THE GIRL I LOVE
AND NOW
CHIERI ANY MORE

wahhhh!!
9 JUDGES GAVE 6.0'S! THE RESULTS ARE IN. THAT MEANS, THE WINNER IS...
woooo!

WHEN I TURN AROUND, I CAN STILL SEE THE PLACE WHERE I FIRST SAW TSUZUKI. ON TOP OF THAT THIN, BLUE ICE...
wahoooooooo!!!

Originally published in Nakayoshi, October - December 1991

——That's not true
A PART OF THEIR WORLD
I CAN'T BE
I can see angel wings on your shoulders
chatter chatter

chatter
chatter
THIS YEAR'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IS BEING BROADCAST RIGHT HERE IN NEW YORK
REPRESENTING JAPAN LAST YEAR IN THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WAS THIS PAIR, TSUZUKI AND ASUKA.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THEIR FIRST PUBLIC PERFORMANCE IN THE ROCKEFELLER CENTER
AHH
EXCUSE ME, I'LL JUST BE A MOMENT LONGER
MR PRESIDENT, ALL OF THE BOARD MEMBERS ARE READY FOR THE CONFERENCE
DO YOU THINK
SAY

woo!
CHIERI
MY HEART IS POUNDING SO HARD
clap
clap
THAT WE ARE DRAWING OTHER ANGELS HERE BY MAGIC?
wooo!
THE ONLY ANGEL FOR ME
YOU ARE

THE KISS YOU GAVE ME BEFORE WE WENT TO THE RINK

★★ THE END ★★

The cherry Project Staff
- Miss Yumi kaneko
- Miss Rica Miyazaki
- Miss Yukari Maruyama

The cherry Project
「KASE NO KUROMAKU」
- Miss Noriko Mori-sawa
- Miss Yayoi Bilingual Ichinji
- Mr Fumio Osapy Osano

— Special Thanks —
- Miss Shioko Nishiuchi
- Miss Mariko Fujii
- Miss Yoko Sekiguchi
- Miss Yumiko Sakai
- Miss Yuriko Saito
- NIPPON Skate Renmei No Minasama
- SHINAGAWA Prince Hotel

and you
♡ with my heart ♡

TODAY IS FEBRUARY 29TH. IT'S A A SPECIAL DAY! I'M AT AN AMAZING CONCERT (I ALMOST NEVER GO TO CONCERTS, BECAUSE TICKETS ARE SO HARD TO GET!) BUT I'VE ALWAYS LOVED THEM RIGHT NOW I'M WATCHING YAMASHITA TATSURO - OF CHRISTMAS EVE FAME* ("YOU DEFINITELY WON'T COME"..THE GUY WHO SINGS THAT!)

(A LONG TIME AGO, I USED TO LOVE YAMASHITA TATSURO'S WORK, ALONG WITH THE SONGS OF YOSHIDA MINAKO - OHH, I JUST LOVED HER, AND KNEW ALL HER SONGS!)

I REALLY AM SO, SO HAPPY EVERY SINGLE DAY. (EVEN THOUGH I'M REALLY BUSY)

TATSURO YAMASHITA IS SINGING

"IF YOU BELIEVE IN GOOD THINGS
YOUR DREAMS WILL DEFINITELY COME TRUE"

THAT IS DEFINITELY TRUE.

SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT <3

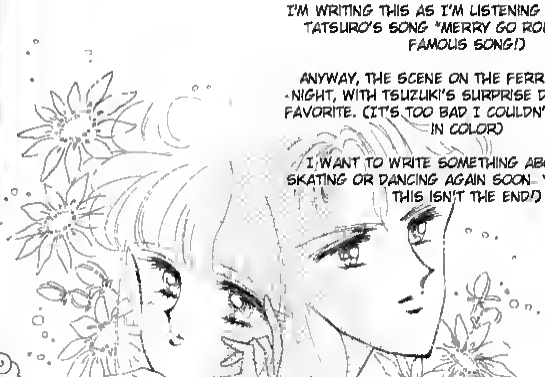
RIGHT NOW I HAVE A LOT OF LOVE GOALS (SERIOUSLY)
THIS EXTRA VOLUME FOR THE CHERRY PROJECT, "WAITING AT THE DREAM PARK", FOLLOWS THE STORY OF A YOUNG TSUZUKI AND A GIRL NAMED FUYUINA. (THEY'RE LIKE A VISION TO ME)

I'M WRITING THIS AS I'M LISTENING TO YAMASHITA TATSURO'S SONG "MERRY GO ROUND" (IT'S A FAMOUS SONG!)

ANYWAY, THE SCENE ON THE FERRIS WHEEL AT NIGHT, WITH TSUZUKI'S SURPRISE DANCING IS MY FAVORITE. (IT'S TOO BAD I COULDN'T DRAW IT ALL IN COLOR)

I WANT TO WRITE SOMETHING ABOUT FIGURE SKATING OR DANCING AGAIN SOON. YEAH. (I HOPE THIS ISN'T THE END!)

THEY HAD A GREAT PERFORMANCE AT 3:30!
TEE HEE THIS WAS MY BACKSTAGE PASS I ABUSED THE HECK OUT OF IT!
PASS
2.29. 4T 3H
LET'S PARTY!
TEE HEE



*notes:
Tatsuro Yamashita is a famous Japanese singer from the 1970s, and his song "Christmas Eve" is his signature ballad.
Yoshida Minako is also a famous singer from that same time period, best known for her blues singing

Waiting at the Dream Park
DID YOU HEAR? SOMEONE IS COMING FROM THE NEW YORK OPERA BALLET TO WATCH OUR NEW PUBLIC PERFORMANCE!
THEY WANT TO FIND SOMEONE TO STUDY ABROAD, RIGHT? OHH, GOING TO NEW YORK IS MY DREAM!
MISS FUYUNA!
badum
giggle giggle
WELL, FINE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS ANYMORE!
WHY IS IT THAT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TELL YOU, YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR ARMS AND LEGS TOGETHER? YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHOSE TIMING IS OFF, AND YOU STAND OUT!

Waiting at the Dream Park

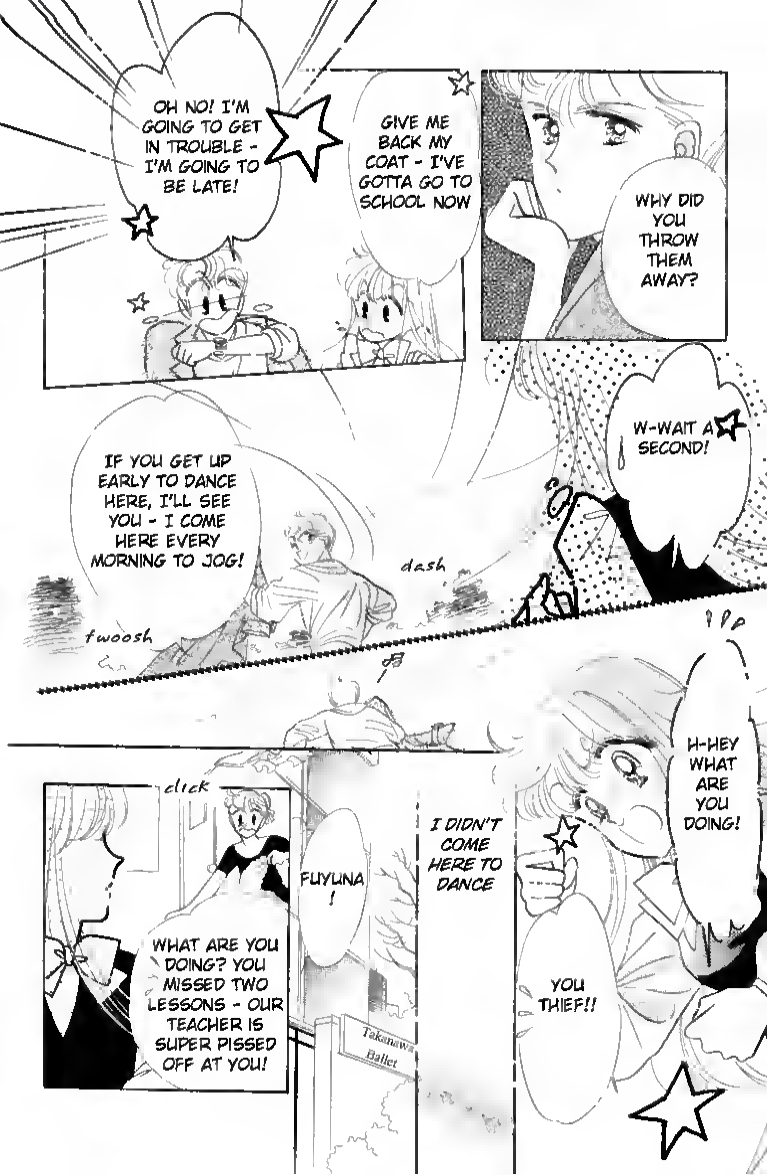
Songbird's Prelude

rustle
!
pant
pant
flutter
chirp
chirp
chirp
rustle

bonk
dash
panic
AAAAACK!!
OWW
I-IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! GO AWAY!
!
USUALLY DANCE
WHILE YOU'RE CRYING?
DO YOU
!
THIS ISN'T YOUR PARK, YOU CAN'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO
humph
clench

grip
dash
W-WWHAAAAT ?!
splash
splish
splish
drip
drip
IF YOU DON'T, I'LL PUT THEM IN A TRASH CAN FOR YOU
DON'T YOU NEED THESE?

AAAACHOO!
chatter chatter chatter
VAVAVAVAVAVA VAVA
HOW COULD YOU DIVE IN LIKE THAT EVEN WHEN IT'S THIS COLD OUT? HOW COULD YOU DO SOMETHING SO STUPID?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS
twip
SO THE SHOES ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU AFTER ALL, AREN'T THEY
HERE
bwoosh
THESE TOESHOES ARE A MOMENTO OF MY MOTHER
THEY ARE, BUT THAT'S BECAUSE
.....
cling


OH NO! I'M GOING TO GET IN TROUBLE - I'M GOING TO BE LATE!
GIVE ME BACK MY COAT - I'VE GOTTA GO TO SCHOOL NOW
WHY DID YOU THROW THEM AWAY?
W-WAIT A SECOND!
IF YOU GET UP EARLY TO DANCE HERE, I'LL SEE YOU - I COME HERE EVERY MORNING TO JOG!
dash
twoosh
H-HEY WHAT ARE YOU DOING!
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO DANCE
YOU THIEF!!
click
FUYUNA !
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU MISSED TWO LESSONS - OUR TEACHER IS SUPER PISSED OFF AT YOU!
Takanawa Ballet

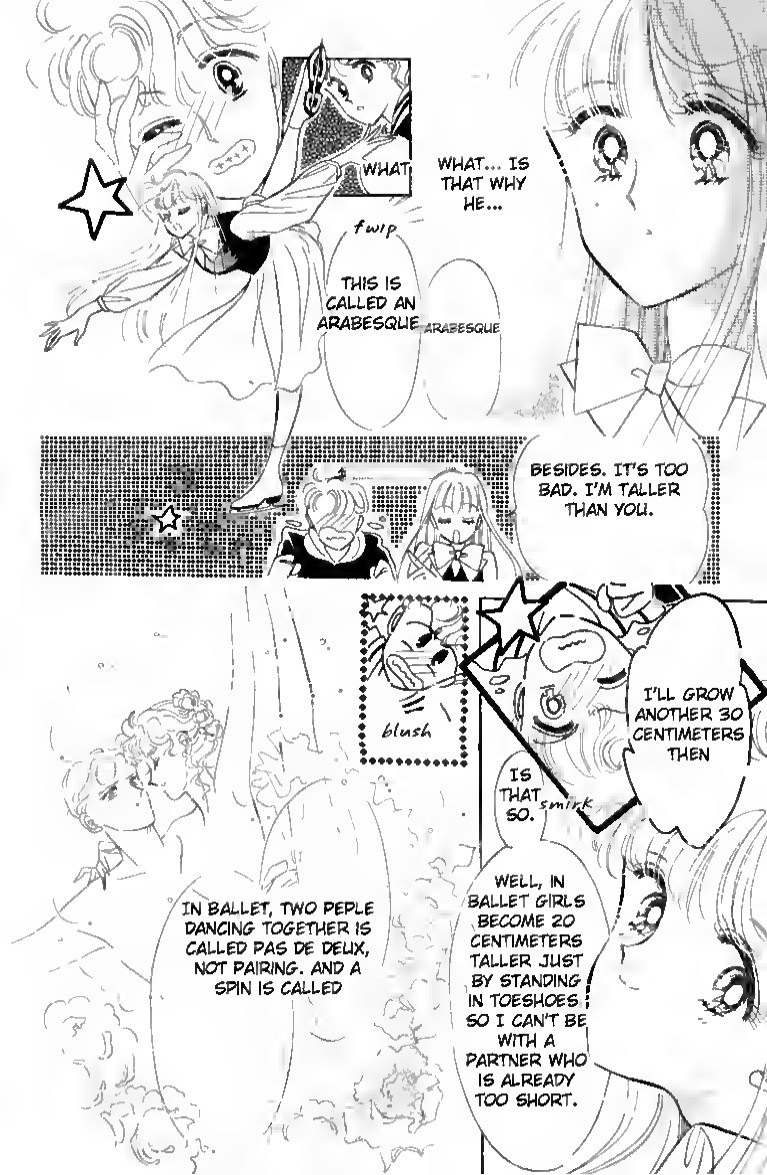
YEAH. ESPECIALLY FOR MISS SAKURADA - THERE'S NO HOPE OF GOING AT ALL
giggle giggle
YEAH BUT IF WE'RE AS COLD THERE AS WE ARE HERE, WHAT'S THE POINT OF GOING ABROAD?
WOW, SO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK OPERA BALLET IS COMING JUST FOR THIS
IT'S FINE. SHE'S GIVEN UP ON ME ALREADY ANYWAY
WHAT IS SHE EVEN DOING HERE? SHE WAS TOLD SHE DIDN'T NEED TO COME BACK AND LEFT CRYING, RIGHT?
giggle giggle
I'M NOT GOING TO GO ANYMORE! I'M GOING TO QUIT DOING BALLET!
pant
pant
pant
pant
cling
ISN'T SHE STUPID? SHE KNOWS THE TEACHER'S GIVEN UP ON HER ALREADY. SHE SHOULDN'T EVEN BOTHER!
gasp

badum
sniffle
OH
pant
YOU'RE HERE ALL ALONE IN THE MORNING, RUNNING. IT'S STUPID!
WHAT ABOUT YOU!
pant
YOU CAME HERE CRYING AGAIN?
WHAT'S THIS?
HEY WAIT A MINUTE
COME WITH ME
grab
I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING, MISS 'THAT SEEMS STUPID'
WHAT?! WITHOUT EVEN ASKING? THAT'S MY SCHOOL COAT!
YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL. I HAD IT CLEANED FOR YOU.
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THIS IS MY REFINED TRAINING MENU
STUPID?! THIS SEEMS STUPID TO YOU?!
WHERE'S MY COAT? HURRY UP AND GIVE IT BACK!

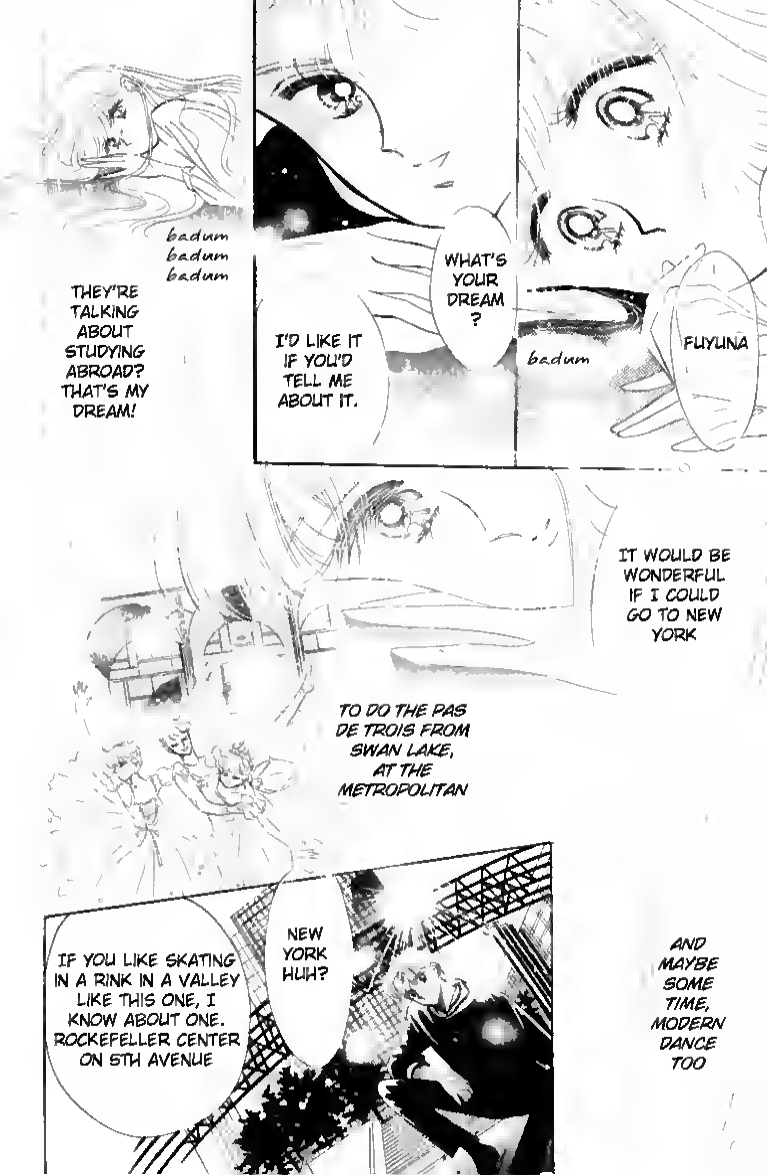
WOW! SKATING! A RINK TOTALLY COVERED IN ICE ALREADY?!
YOU FOOL. THIS RINK IS ARTIFICIALLY FROZEN
swish
twoosh
WOW, THIS IS AMAZING - THERE'S NO ONE HERE!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SKATED. IT MIGHT BE NICE TO SKATE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE
IT'S WONDERFUL
fwoosh

THERE'S NOBODY WHO CAN JUMP A TRIPLE LIKE ME!
DID YOU SEE?
scratch
swish
TEE HEE
tug
twish
I WISH I COULD JUMP
AS LIGHTLY AS HIM
HE'S LIKE A BIRD
THIS FEELS GOOD
OH
flutter

HUH....
blush
YOU'RE SO LIGHT - HOW MUCH DO YOU WEIGH?
I KNEW IT. FROM THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU.
SINCE YOU'VE DONE BALLET, THE SPIRAL YOU DID WAS GOING TO BE GREAT.
HEY
WOULD YOU FIGURE SKATE WITH ME?
IT'S MY DREAM TO PAIR SKATE SOMEDAY. I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR A PARTNER


WHAT
twirl
THIS IS CALLED AN ARABESQUE
ARABESQUE
WHAT... IS THAT WHY HE...
BESIDES. IT'S TOO BAD. I'M TALLER THAN YOU.
blush
I'LL GROW ANOTHER 30 CENTIMETERS THEN
IS THAT SO.
smirk
WELL, IN BALLET GIRLS BECOME 20 CENTIMETERS TALLER JUST BY STANDING IN TOESHOES SO I CAN'T BE WITH A PARTNER WHO IS ALREADY TOO SHORT.
IN BALLET, TWO PEPLE DANCING TOGETHER IS CALLED PAS DE DEUX, NOT PAIRING. AND A SPIN IS CALLED

A SPIN IS CALLED
A PIROUETTE
HEH!
YOU FOOL
slip
wobble
pull
I-I FELL (THIS IS BAD!)
blush blush blush
TEE HEE
WOW, THIS ICE IS COLD - IT FEELS GOOD
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MINE IS TSUZUKI MASANORI
I'M SAKURADA FUYUNA
HMM

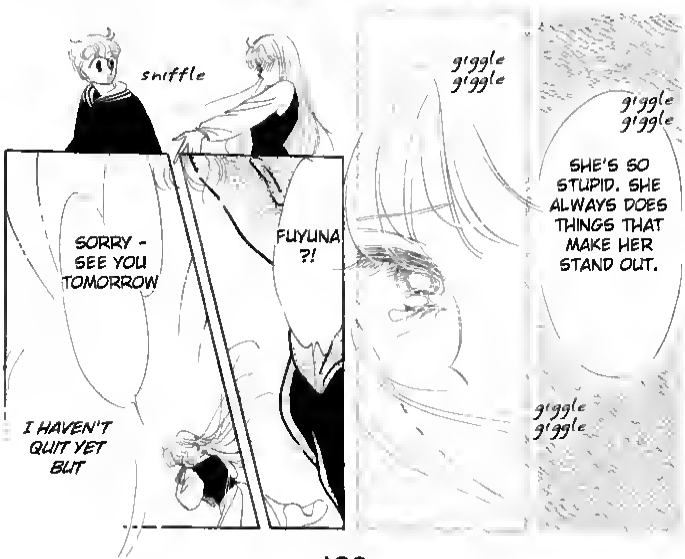

badum badum badum
THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT STUDYING ABROAD? THAT'S MY DREAM!
I'D LIKE IT IF YOU'D TELL ME ABOUT IT.
WHAT'S YOUR DREAM ?
badum
FUYUNA
IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF I COULD GO TO NEW YORK
TO DO THE PAS DE TROIS FROM SWAN LAKE, AT THE METROPOLITAN
NEW YORK HUH?
IF YOU LIKE SKATING IN A RINK IN A VALLEY LIKE THIS ONE, I KNOW ABOUT ONE. ROCKEFELLER CENTER ON 5TH AVENUE
AND MAYBE SOME TIME, MODERN DANCE TOO

I'M GOING TO PERFORM AS THE STARRING ROLE, A FAIRY PRINCESS WHO TAKES PITY ON THE HUMANS AND MAKES THE SNOW STOP FALLING
WE'RE HAVING A PUBLIC PERFORMANCE
BUT IT SEEMS STUPID
IT'S A BALLET CALLED "THE TALE OF SNOW"
WHICH DISSOLVES INTO SLEET AND BOTHERS THE HUMANS
THE DANCE YOU DO IS LIKE SPARKLING GLASS SNOW,
WHAT
OH NO! IT'S ALREADY 11:30?!
SCHOOL
I'M GOING TO QUIT DOING BALLET

THE PARK ISN'T NORMALLY LIKE THIS...
LET'S SKIP IT
NAH
OH WOW
LOOK AT THE SKY, IT'S SO OPEN AND WIDE
chatter
murmur
chatter
YOU BALLET FOOL
IT'S LIKE THERE ARE PIECES OF CRYSTAL INSIDE OF IT OR SOMETHING
A SEE THROUGH PURPLE TUTU
OH
BEAUTIFUL

I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING LIKE THOSE
W-WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MY FEELINGS?!
blush
Y-YOU'RE MEAN!
W-WOW THOSE ARE PRETTY
BUT THEY'RE A LITTLE DIFFERENT
OH YOU
THAT FAIRY PRINCESS STORY
WHAT IF WE SKATE IT?
HEY
I'LL GIVE YOU ONE
badum badum
badum badum
grip
YOU'VE DONE IT BEFORE, SO YOU CAN DEFINITELY SKATE IT!
WELL? DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA? LET'S DO IT!
OKAY
HE GAVE IT TO ME!
tee hee
IT'S A PROMISE THEN
WELL, UM, I....

OH, HEY MISS SAKURADA
YOU SKIPPED CLASS! AND WOW! YOU'RE ON A DATE WITH A BOY FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL TOO?!
hide
IT'S EVERYONE FROM MY BALLET GROUP
!
gasp
SEE YOU THERE, BYE!
I'M GOING TO LESSON AFTER I DROP OFF MY BAG
I WISH SHE'D HURRY UP AND MOVE HER THINGS OUT OF OUR LOCKERS
COME ON, LET'S GO. I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH SOMEONE WHO QUIT BALLET

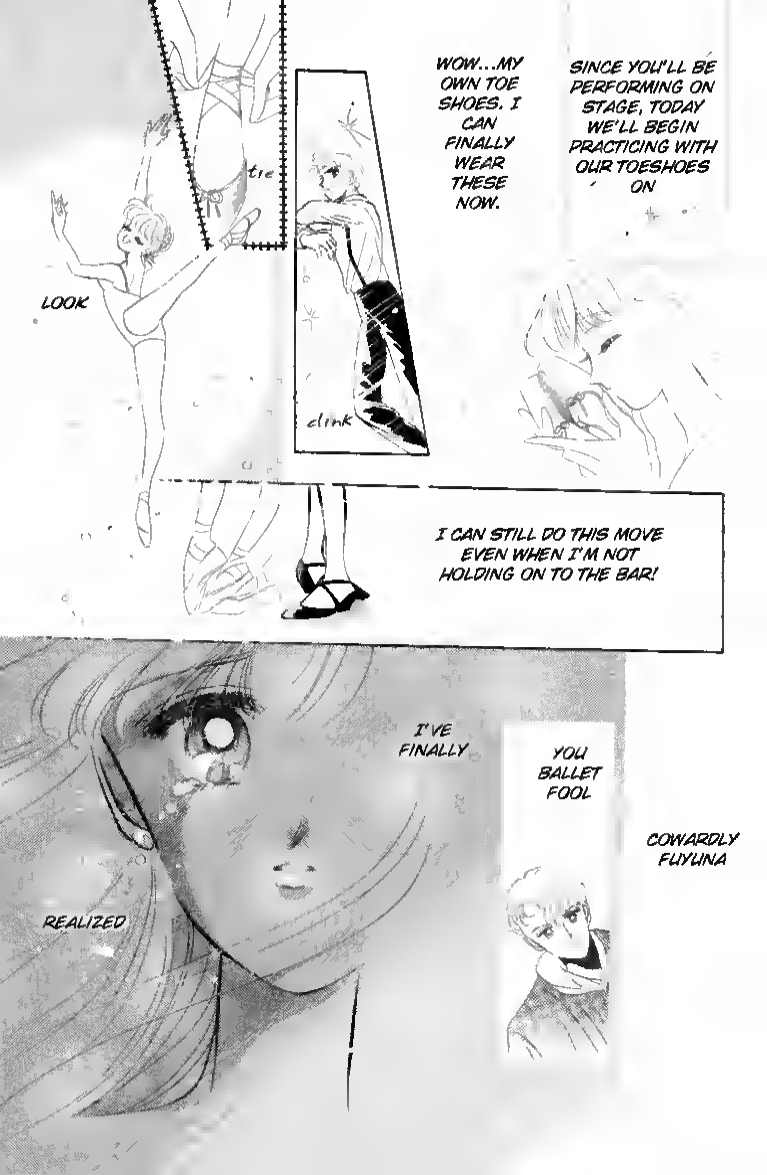

sniffle
SORRY - SEE YOU TOMORROW
FUYUNA ?!
I HAVEN'T QUIT YET BUT
giggle giggle
giggle giggle
SHE'S SO STUPID. SHE ALWAYS DOES THINGS THAT MAKE HER STAND OUT.
giggle giggle

ONE, TWO, THREE, SISSONNE! JETÉ! EXTEND THE TIP OF YOUR TOE!
tap
creak
I WONDER HOW MANY DAYS IT'S BEEN SINCE I WENT TO A LESSON
OH, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I FELT HOW MY TOESHOES FEEL
I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO QUIT NOW
Takanawa Ballet
MISS FUYUNA ?!
THAT GIRL?!
WHAT'S SHE DOING IN MY SPOT?!

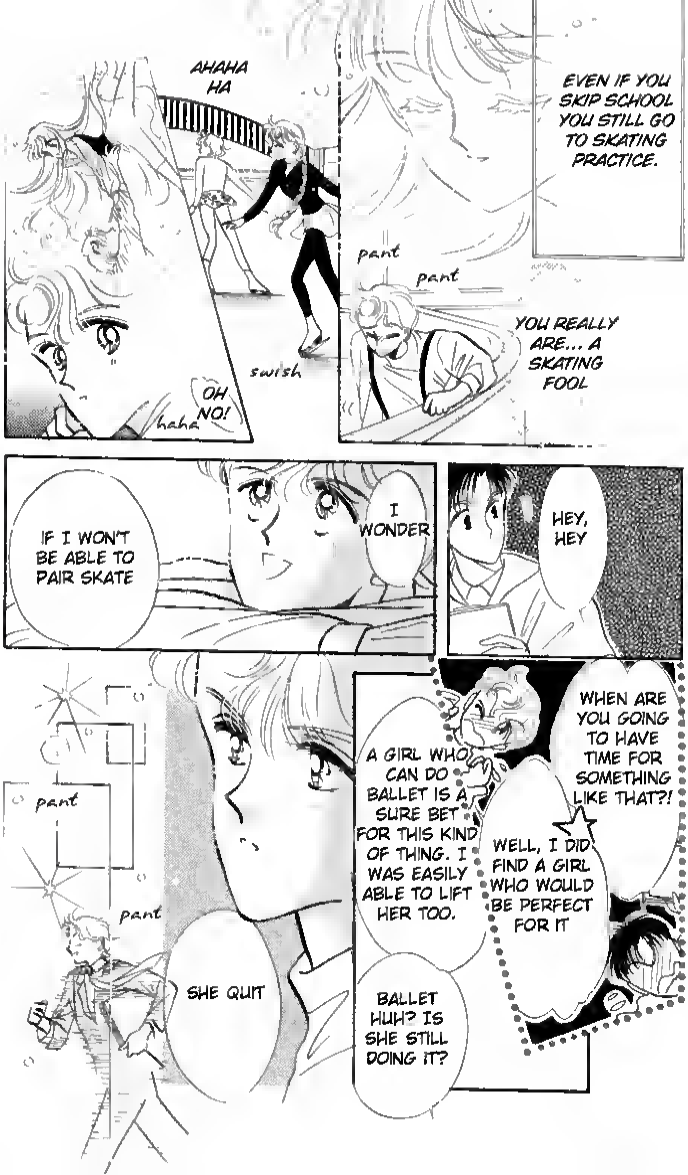
I WAS HOPING I'D BUMP INTO YOU AGAIN - I WAS HOPING I'D SEE YOU QUITE A FEW TIMES MORE, ACTUALLY
BUT I CAN'T LET THERE BE A GAP ON MY STAGE.
SO I GAVE YOUR PART IN THE PERFORMANCE TO SOMEONE ELSE
IF YOU HATE DOING BALLET SO MUCH THAT YOU KEEP BLOWING IT OFF
THEN JUST QUIT ALREADY
giggle
giggle
dash
FINE!
I WAS GOING TO QUIT ANYWAY!
twirsh
YOU DON'T NEED THESE ANYMORE. LET'S THROW THEM AWAY

bwooosh
WHY WAS THAT SUCH A SHOCK TO ME?
SOMEBODY TELL ME
plip
plip
HEY! WATCH IT! YOU CAN'T JUST ENTER THE RINK WHENEVER YOU WANT!
I'M JUST TIRED OF EVERYTHING
WHY I FEEL LIKE MY HEART HAS BEEN CRUSHED
NO, NO, TSUZUKI! IF YOU KEEP DOING IT LIKE THAT YOU'RE GOING TO FALL DOWN
pant
YOU CAN'T COME IN

TSUZUKI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU'RE GOING TO INJURE HER!
DO IT AGAIN!
DO IT UNTIL YOU GET IT RIGHT!
OKAY!
THIS IS MY TRAINING SCHEDULE
SKATING IS A PAIR IS MY DREAM
HEY, EVERYONE!
kadum
kadum


tie
LOOK
clink
WOW...MY OWN TOE SHOES. I CAN FINALLY WEAR THESE NOW.
SINCE YOU'LL BE PERFORMING ON STAGE, TODAY WE'LL BEGIN PRACTICING WITH OUR TOESHOES ON
I CAN STILL DO THIS MOVE EVEN WHEN I'M NOT HOLDING ON TO THE BAR!
I'VE FINALLY
REALIZED
YOU BALLET FOOL
COWARDLY FUYUNA

I WANT TO DANCE
I WANT TO BECOME STRONGER
I LOVE
BALLET
huff
tap
I'M SORRY FOR BARGING IN TO THE RINK LIKE THIS - THANK YOU!
bow
pant


AHAHA HA
swish
OH NO!
haha
EVEN IF YOU SKIP SCHOOL YOU STILL GO TO SKATING PRACTICE.
pant
pant
YOU REALLY ARE... A SKATING FOOL
I WONDER
IF I WON'T BE ABLE TO PAIR SKATE
HEY, HEY
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO HAVE TIME FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
A GIRL WHO CAN DO BALLET IS A SURE BET FOR THIS KIND OF THING. I WAS EASILY ABLE TO LIFT HER TOO.
WELL, I DID FIND A GIRL WHO WOULD BE PERFECT FOR IT
BALLET HUH? IS SHE STILL DOING IT?
pant
pant
SHE QUIT

HEH HEH
clench
turn
WHAT IF I TOOK YOU TO THE RINK WITH ME? WE'RE THE SAME AGE, IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU TO START FIGURE SKATING NOW YOU KNOW
pant
Performance
Glinka
New York Opera
Akiko Fujiwara
Saya Ayako
Sakurada Fuyuna
"The Tale of Snow" presented by The Takanawa Ballet
chatter
chatter
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE SHE LIVES? IT MIGHT NOT WORK THEN...

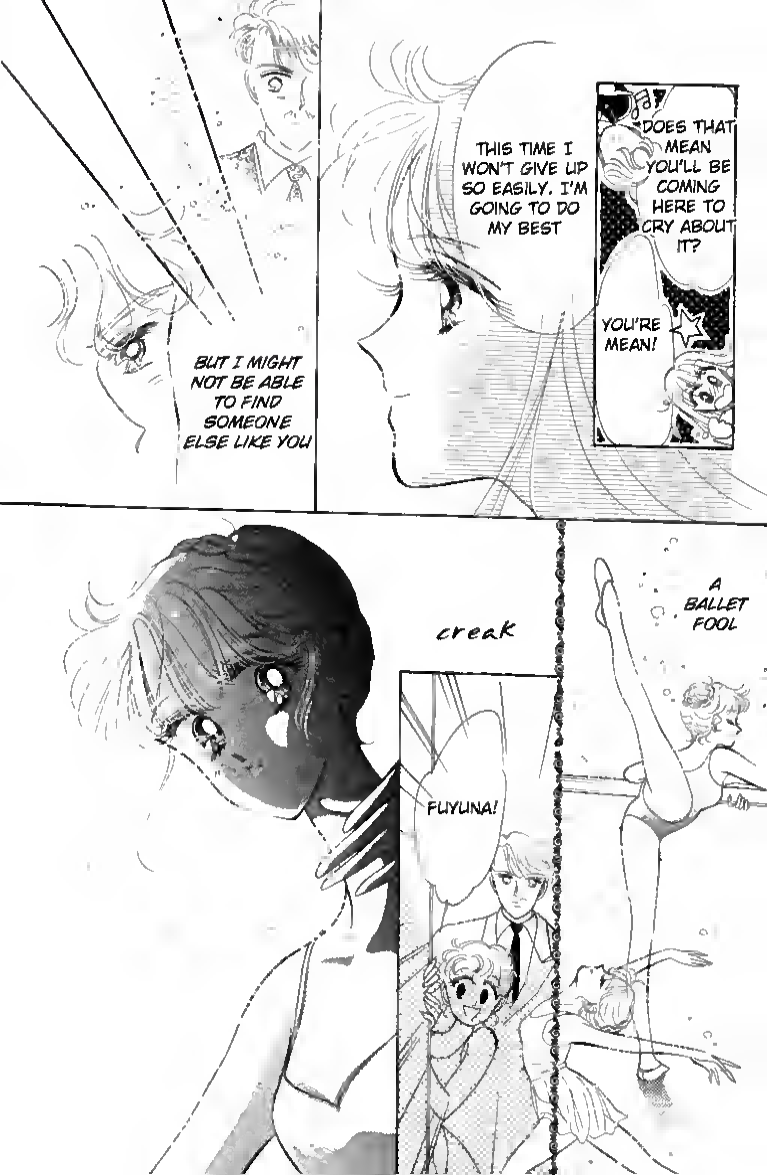
HERE. THIS WILL HELP YOU DANCE WELL
badum badum badum
OH NO, I LIFTED MY ARM TOO MUCH AGAIN
OH, NOT AGAIN. SHE'S TOO MUCH.
MISS SAKURADA ?
GIVEN HOW CAREFREE HER ARMS AND LEGS ARE, AND HER POWER OF EXPRESSION
FROM THE BEGINNING I'VE TRIED TO INTEGRATE EVERYONE TO HER LEVEL, BUT SHE CAN'T HANDLE THEIR COLDNESS

I AM
PLEASE! JUST GIVE ME ONE MORE CHANCE!
THE FAIRY PRINCESS
SEE YOU!
OUR LAST PERFOR-MANCE IS AT HIBIYA HALL!
SEE YOU!
WOO HOO!
clap clap
clap clap clap
clap
clap
clap

TEE HEE
OH NO, I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO SEE ME HERE
badum badum badum badum
YOU STOPPED BEING A CRYBABY AND WENT BACK TO BALLET
YOU DID GREAT
bwoosh
FROM THE BEGINNING I COULD FEEL THE CROWD BEHIND ME. THAT'S THE BEST KIND OF ROLE TO HAVE.
AM I REALLY THAT EASY TO SEE THROUGH ?
I
IT WASN'T EXACTLY A LIE... BUT I GUESS IT TURNED INTO BEING A LIE
EVEN SAYING THAT I WAS GOING TO QUIT
ALL OF THAT WAS A LIE
BUT WHAT I SAID ABOUT BEING THE STAR ROLE AS THE PRINCESS, AND MY TOESHOES BEING MY MOTHER'S MOMENTOS

I WILL
giggle
I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE SOME OLD FAIRY PERFORM. I WANTED TO SEE YOU AS A FAIRY, FUYUNA
MAKE YOU BE THE STAR ROLE
click
YOU'RE PRETTIER, FUYUNA
PRETTY
THIS RINK IS LIKE A LAKE THAT'S FROZEN OVER

clasp
IT'S USELESS. I'M NOT STEADY ON THE ICE, AND SO I CAN'T DANCE WELL
LOOK
I COULD MAKE YOU INTO THE STAR OF THIS RINK ANY TIME
YOU'RE MUCH PRETTIER
AT THE STARRING ROLE, THE PRINCESS
IF YOU'RE NOT QUITTING BALLET
fwish


BUT I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE LIKE YOU
THIS TIME I WON'T GIVE UP SO EASILY. I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST
"DOES THAT MEAN YOU'LL BE COMING HERE TO CRY ABOUT IT?
YOU'RE MEAN!
creak
FUYUNA!
A BALLET FOOL

I CAN GO! TO NEW YORK!!
THEY CHOSE ME OVER PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE BEEN ON THE STAGE MANY, MANY TIMES - BECAUSE THEY SAID I HAVE POTENTIAL! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?!
THIS IS LIKE A DREAM!
SHE'S
IT'S URGENT, SO I'M GOING TOMORROW NIGHT
WHEN?
SO SMALL
FROM THE TOP OF THE LAKE
GOING TO FLY AWAY

DEPARTURE
I KNEW YOU WERE A LIAR
HOWEVER
YOU MADE A PROMISE TO ME

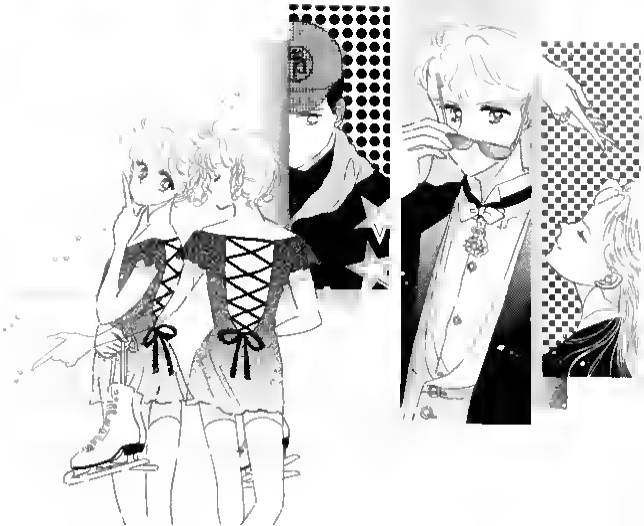
YOU SAID THAT THE FAIRY PRINCESS WOULD SKATE WITH ME
ARE YOU CRYING...?
badum
HEY
BOYS ARE SUPPOSED TO KEEP A CALM POKER FACE ALL THE TIME
badum
badum
I'M NOT CRYING
SINCE YOU'RE GOING ALL THE WAY TO NEW YORK, WHERE IT'S COLD YOU'LL NEED IT - RIGHT?
HERE'S YOUR COAT

originally published in
Nakayoshi Deluxe, May 1990

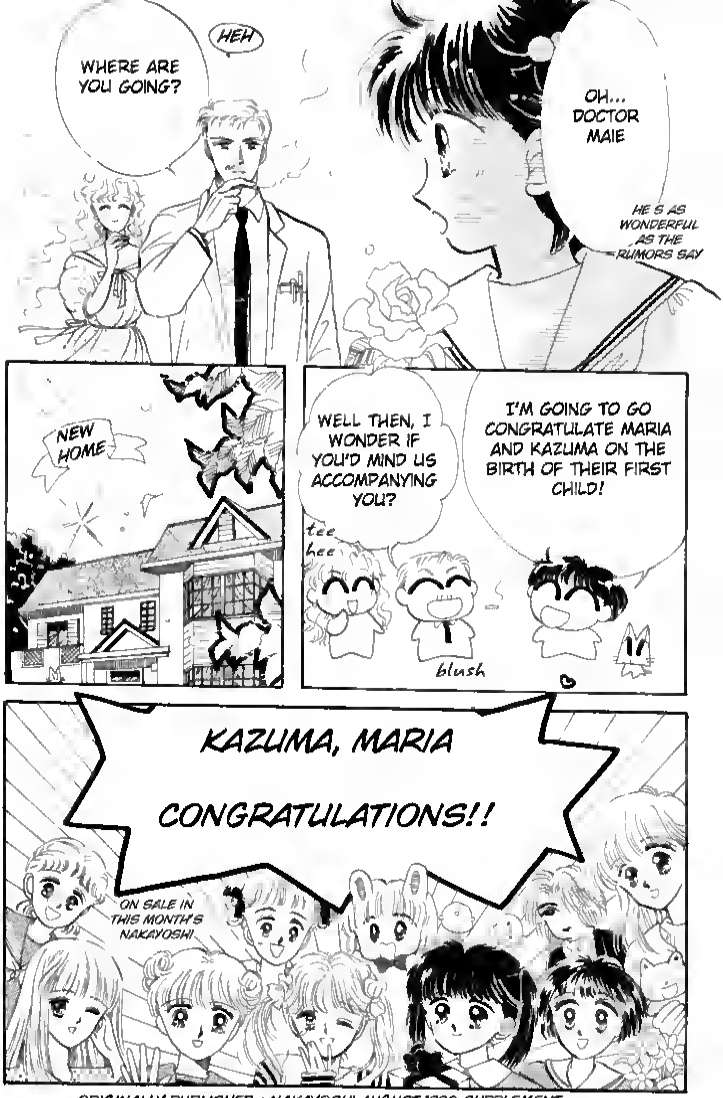
FIRST TIME I SAW YOU, I THOUGHT YOU LOOKED LIKE A BIRD
THE
SO DID I
MISS FUYUNA?
yes
MY CHARM
I WILL
cling
plip plip plip
SO DID I

IT WILL COME TRUE
I'LL FIND A GIRL OF MY OWN WHO HAS WINGS TOO. AND THEN MY DREAM WILL DEFINITELY COME TRUE
tap
mur mur
mur mur
mur mur
mur mur
tap tap tap

★★ THE END ★★



JOINT COLLABORATION COMIC


WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HEH
OH... DOCTOR MAIE
HE'S AS WONDERFUL AS THE RUMORS SAY
NEW HOME
WELL THEN, I WONDER IF YOU'D MIND US ACCOMPANYING YOU?
I'M GOING TO GO CONGRATULATE MARIA AND KAZUMA ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR FIRST CHILD!
tee hee
blush
KAZUMA, MARIA
CONGRATULATIONS!!
ON SALE IN THIS MONTH'S NAKAYOSHI

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED = NAKAYOSHI AUGUST 1990 SUPPLEMENT

NAKAYOSHI

MONTHLY

MARCH EDITION ON SALE NOW

THIS WINTER, CHECK OUT NAOKO'S NEW SERIALIZATION!!

scribble scribble scribble scribble

TAKEUCHI NAOKO

DEBUTS HER NEW WORK WITH AOI!

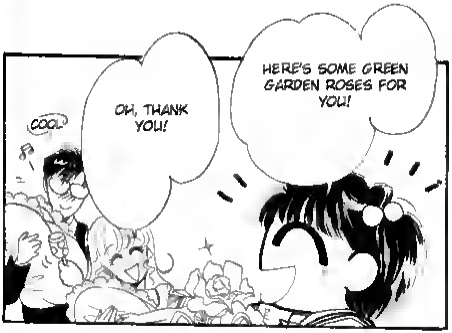
scribble

IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS

scribble

CHECK IT OUT!

AOI MADE THIS FOR ME (IT'S SILLY)



I WROTE THIS AS A JOKE WHEN THE CHERRY PROJECT BEGAN SERIALIZATION

THERE ARE FIVE BABIES
ISN'T IT WONDERFUL?
WOOOOOOOAHHH
THE TRUTH IS
shine
shine
ohhhh
WOO HOO!
YEAH LET US SEE IT!
OKAY, NOW LET ME SEE THE BABY
tee hee
sigh
wahhh
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE KIND OF CREEPY LOOKING
AREN'T THEY ARE ALL CUTE?!
wahhh
TEE HEE
wahhh
wahhh
wahhh

★★ THE END ★★

WOW!
YOU'VE JUST FINISHED READING THIS WHOLE COMIC!
AND THIS ISN'T EDITED!
BECAUSE ORIGINALLY, THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE JUST TWO BOOKS!
I'M HAPPY! THAT'S GOOD SERVICE! (THAT'S MY FAVORITE PHRASE RIGHT NOW!)
ANYWAY...
"MARIA'S EPILOGUE" WAS SUPER AWESOME TO WORK ON!
IT'S A PHANTOM FAMOUS WORK OF MINE (I MEAN, KODANSHA'S "MARIA" - GO BUY IT, IT'S FAMOUS!)
BUT IT'S ALL THANKS TO THIS PERSON

GOLDFISH WARNING!

THE AUTHOR OF THIS SMASH HIT, NEKOBE NEKO - IT'S ALL THANKS TO HIM! TEE HEE HEE.
ONCE TIME WHEN I WAS AT KODANSHA (KO-DAN-SHA) I FOUND HIM MAKING ROUGH SKETCHERS. THIS WAS BEFORE THE CHERRY PROJECT BEGAN SERIALIZATION, AND HE WAS DRAWING THESE GAG COMICS FOR ALL OF THE SERIALIZATION SERIES THAT WERE BEING PUBLISHED AT THE TIME. AND HE MADE A DRAWING OF THE TWO CHARACTERS FROM MARIA, WHICH I THOUGHT WAS GREAT. LET'S DO THIS AGAIN SOON, OKAY MR. NEKO! LET'S MEET AGAIN IN TOKYO SOON!

THIS IS A COPY OF MY ROUGH DRAFT. IT'S A COPY OF MR. NEKO'S DRAWINGS OF MARIA AND KAZUMA

MR. NEKO! THANK YOU! YOU CAN USE MY COMICS ANY TIME YOU WANT. I AM IN YOUR GRATITUDE!

WELL WELL

HOW WAS THE CHERRY PROJECT VOLUME 3?
I DREW SO MUCH FOR THIS ONE
(I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE, IT WAS SO MUCH WORK)
THIS WAS ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED TO BE JUST TWO BOOKS, SO I WROTE SOME EXTRA CONTENT. WAS IT GOOD?
YOU GOT YOUR MONEY'S WORTH, RIGHT? HUFF HUFF.

WELL, NEXT UP IS ***PRETTY SOLDIER SAILOR MOON*** VOLUME 1. I HOPE YOU'LL BUY IT!

THE PASSWORD IS "MOON PRISM POWER MAKE UP"!